

OLDAPORT CAMP, MODBURY, DEVON

(NGR SX 63515 49445)

Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Archaeological Survey and
Results of Archaeological Excavation

Scheduled Monument: Iron Age promontory fort known as
Oldaport Camp (National Heritage List No. 1020234)

Prepared by:
Paul Rainbird

With a Contribution by:
Stella de-Villiers

On behalf of:
Mr David Evans

Document No: ACD879/1/2

Revised February 2015



AC archaeology

OLDAPORT CAMP, MODBURY, DEVON

(NGR SX 63515 49445)

Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Archaeological Survey and Results of Archaeological Excavation

Scheduled Monument: Iron Age promontory fort known as Oldaport Camp (National Heritage List no. 1020234)

CONTENTS

	<i>Summary</i>	
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Aims	2
3.	Methodology	3
4.	Archaeological and historical background	3
5.	Survey results – Zone 1	8
6.	Survey results – Zone 2	11
7.	Survey results – Zone 3	12
8.	Survey results – Zone 4	13
9.	Survey results – Zone 5	13
10.	Assessment of archaeological potential	14
11.	Prioritisation of management action	16
12.	Results of archaeological excavation – January 2015	17
13.	Archive	20
14.	Acknowledgements	20
15.	Sources consulted	21

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site
Fig. 2: Area of the Scheduled Monument and management zones within the HLS holding
Fig. 3: Extract from the Modbury tithe map, 1841
Fig. 4: Historic Landscape Characterisation
Fig. 5: Extract from the Jope Archive map
Fig. 6: Photographs from Jope and Threlfall's 1938 investigations
Fig. 7: Extract from the Farley trench location map
Fig. 8: Results of the magnetometry geophysical survey by Exeter University, 2007
Fig. 9: Earthwork survey, Zones 1, west end of Zone 2 and 3
Fig. 10: Zone 1, elevations and sections of the northeast wall
Fig. 11: Earthwork survey, Zones 2 and 5
Fig. 12: Profiles 1 and 2
Fig. 13: Trench 1, location and section
Fig. 14: Test pit locations, profile and sections

List of plates

- Plate 1: Zone 1, northeast wall exterior, south end, viewed from the east. 2m scale
Plate 2: Zone 1, northeast wall exterior, north end, viewed from the southeast. 2m scale
Plate 3: Zone 1, northeast wall and bank interior, viewed from the west. 1m scale

- Plate 4: Zone 1, northeast wall interior, showing possible putlog hole and render, viewed from the west. 1m scale
- Plate 5: Zone 1, northeast wall and earthworks exterior, viewed from the east.
- Plate 6: Zone 1, view of ditch
- Plate 7: Zone 2, view of northwest angle wall
- Plate 8: Zone 2, the spring, viewed from the southeast. 1m and 1m scales
- Plate 9: Zone 2, north slope and terrace
- Plate 10: Zone 3, northeast end of green lane, viewed from the southwest. 1m and 1m scales
- Plate 11: Zone 3, southwest end of green lane, viewed from the northeast. 1m and 1m scales
- Plate 12: Zone 3, erosion below site of South Tower, viewed from the south. 1m scale
- Plate 13: Zone 3, view of hedgebank erosion.
- Plate 14: Zone 3, view of wooded slope.
- Plate 15: Zone 4, view along the spur, from the east
- Plate 16: Zone 4, view towards Brent Hill
- Plate 17: Zone 5, the Pitty field eastern hedgebank, viewed from the southwest
- Plate 18: Zone 5, the Pitty field eastern hedgebank, telegraph pole, viewed from the west.
- Plate 19: Zone 5, the Rookery hedgebank, viewed from the south. 1m scale
- Plate 20: Zone 5, the metalled lane, viewed from the south. 1m scale
- Plate 21: Zone 1, general view of excavation Trench 1, viewed from the south. 1m scale
- Plate 22: Zone 1, oblique view of southeast-facing section of the excavation Trench 1. 1m scale
- Plate 23: Zone 2, general view of test pit transect, viewed from the southwest. 1m scale
- Plate 24: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 2. 1m scale
- Plate 24: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 3. 1m scale
- Plate 25: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 4. 1m scale
- Plate 26: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 5. 1m scale

Appendix 1: Table of events

Summary

An archaeological survey of Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon (SX 63515 49445) was carried out by AC archaeology between March and August 2014. The site of Oldaport Camp covers approximately 13ha, is a Scheduled Monument (SM), and sits within an area held in a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme. The survey was carried out to inform future management, with particular emphasis on erosion caused by stock animals.

A detailed record has been made of upstanding structures. The SM has been divided into five zones for management purposes and the archaeological potential has been assessed for each of the zones. Three of the zones are considered of significant archaeological potential and two of the zones are of unknown potential. Management recommendations associated with these zones have been put forward and several have been enacted.

Archaeological excavations in relation to management recommendations and to enable improved interpretation and future management of the site were conducted in January 2015 and the results are reported here. The excavation of the bank behind the northeast wall in Zone 1 produced different results to earlier excavations. It is therefore suggested that the bank may have been constructed in two phases. No dating evidence for the bank was recovered. The excavation of test pits in Zone 2 demonstrated that the terrace along Ayleston brook is formed from made ground, for which no dating evidence was recovered. Updated management recommendations for Zone 2 are put forward..

1. INTRODUCTION (Figs 1 and 2)

1.1 This report has been commissioned by David Evans of Oldaport Farm and presents the results of an archaeological survey of Oldaport Camp, near Modbury, Devon. The site covers an area of approximately 13ha centred on SX 63515 49445 (Fig. 1). It is a Scheduled Monument (SM; National Heritage List no. 1020234), the extent of which is shown on Fig. 2. The site is currently on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register (formerly the Scheduled Monuments at Risk Register), due to localised erosion by stock animals. The survey was undertaken by AC archaeology between March and August 2014, and was requested by English Heritage (EH) as cultural heritage advisors to Natural England. The site is held within a Higher Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme (HLS) with Natural England, and the survey was undertaken to inform future management. It was carried out in accordance with a brief provided by EH (Vulliamy 2013).

1.2 Oldaport lies southwest of the small town of Modbury in the South Hams of Devon, and is the name of the farm on the neck of the spur adjacent to the site. The site of Oldaport Camp is defined by sections of large wall and ditches, situated on a spur some 900m long by 215m wide at its broadest point. At present the majority of the 13ha enclosed is given over to stock grazing. The spur has a stream (Ayleston Brook; used by barges until 1844) and marsh to the north, and a stream in the valley to the south. At the southwest end of the spur is Oldaport Woods and tidal Orcheton Creek, close to the head of the Erme estuary. Oldaport Woods is under different ownership and was not included in the archaeological survey. For purposes of discussion below the SM within the Oldaport Farm holding has been divided into five zones defined in Table 1, and shown on Fig. 2.

- 1.3** The underlying geology comprises Devonian period slate, siltstone and mudstone and decomposed 'shillet' of the Dartmouth Group. The highest point of the site, adjacent to the public road lies at around 50m aOD. The central ridge of the spur drops gently to near sea level in Oldaport Woods, and the central level area of the spur drops very steeply on the northern side and still steeply, but less so, on the southern side.
- 1.4** Vegetation coverage is almost exclusively grass of closely-cropped animal pasture. The exceptions are the site boundaries where hedges consist of a variety of shrub and tree species described in the survey section (5) below.
- 1.5** Oldaport Camp is a part of Oldaport Farm which is run as a commercial small-holding focussing on sheep and miniature ponies. Some of the farm buildings are converted and in use as holiday lets.

Zone	Feature(s)	Description
1	Northeast wall, ditch and earthworks	This area takes in the area of the putative Phase 1 square enclosure
2	Northwest angle wall, spring and northern paddock down to Ayleston Brook	This area takes in the steep slope that drops from the north side of the spur and the shelf situated above the Ayleston Brook. It is defined at east end by the 'angle' wall which joins Zone 1 with the Ayleston Brook and incorporates a spring.
3	The south-western boundary works for the putative Phase 2 fort	This is a narrow strip which takes in the southern side of the spur where it drops steeply down to a green lane which follows a line from Oldaport Farm towards Orcheton Creek at the tip of the spur. It is defined by Zone 1 at its northeast end and by an area of wood and scrub at its southwest end.
4	The top of the spur	This is the generally level area on the top of the spur, directly west of Zone 1 and east of Oldaport Woods. The north and south sides are defined by the top of steep drops (Zones 2 and 3).
5	The northeastern hedgebank and lane earthworks	This area is directly east of Zone 1 and takes in the hedgebank of Pitty Field and public road. Also included is a small section of hedgebank in an area known as the Rookery directly south of the entrance drive to Oldaport Farm.

Table 1: The zones for site management

2. AIMS

2.1 The principal aims of the survey, as set out in the brief, were to:

- Augment and update information held by English Heritage and the Devon County Historic Environment Record (HER) through a desk-top study and ground survey;
- Produce accurately surveyed locations and extents of the features for management purposes;
- Provide an up-to-date condition assessment and photographic record for all features;
- Recommend management advice for each feature in light of this information;
- Identify areas of high potential for below ground and palaeoenvironmental remains to survive, and the appropriate means of mitigating against any damage caused by ground disturbance; and
- Identify areas of priority for management of the Scheduled Monument and describe suitable methods.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The survey was carried out over a period of six months between March and August 2014. This allowed the site to be visited during different seasonal conditions.

3.2 A written record and measured drawings of the northeast wall, accompanied by sketches where necessary, were prepared. A measured survey was prepared of the earthworks in the northeast part of the site and selected areas of the northwest and southwest perimeter. The location of all features was recorded using a survey-grade GPS. A photographic record was prepared using a high quality digital camera, with details recorded on *pro forma* index sheets. Where appropriate a photographic scale was used. All recording was undertaken in line with the *AC archaeology Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (2012), and prepared in accordance with the guidance set out in English Heritage's 2007 document *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A guide to good recording practice*.

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs 3-8; Appendix 1)

4.1 Summary historical background

No mention is made in the *Domesday Book* but a marginal note in *Exon Domesday* reveals that nine manors neighbouring the area of Oldaport, east of the River Avon, had been 'laid waste' by Irish raiders, seven of which had not recovered by 1086 (Thorn and Thorn 1985, 17, 41). The earliest reference to Oldaport is dated c. 1250, when John de la Port is said to have taken 'his name of an old fort that standeth upon the river of Erme and gave the name unto a family' (Lysons 1822, 274). The name 'la Yoldeport' appears in the Feet of Fines for 1310, and the Episcopal registers for 1332 record it as 'La port in the parochia de Modbury' (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1932). Around 1630 Risdon produced a survey of Devon in which he notes, 'De la Port, called also Old Port, lieth near Orcharton, and had, in elder ages, inhabitants of that name. It was sometime a castle of defence, having a little creek of the sea coming up under it' (Risdon 1970, 188).

4.2 During the later 19th and into the 20th Centuries there were various mentions of and theories relating to Oldaport, ranging from a Norman deer park to the lost Roman station of *Armina* (see Appendix 1). An unpublished note dated June 1863 in the diary of antiquary Sir Henry Dryden, of Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire, reports the remains of two round towers and elaborate gateways. Page (1893, 162) reports that the farmer at Oldaport had told him that 'in his father's time the fortification was in a much better state of preservation, that there were entrances on each side, one surmounted by a huge arch of a "sort of red sandstone".'

4.3 Historic Mapping

Early maps

Saxton's 1575 map of Devon shows Orcheton and Kingston, but does not mark Oldaport or show any indication of features at the site. Benjamin Donn's map of 1765 shows only the road that passes Oldaport Farm. Greenwood's map of 1827 provides further detail; Oldaport Farm is shown with three buildings depicted and the road past the farm is marked with a crossroads at the location of the current entrance drive. The southwest arm follows the line of the green lane (Zone 3) to Orcheton Creek with the northeast arm a short stub. Oldaport Wood occupies the area at the end of the spur. No further details are present.

Tithe map (1841) (Fig. 3)

The tithe map and apportionment of 1841 shows the site of the ditch (Zone 1) covered in wood (plot 1950). The paddock in this area up to the lane (part of Zones 1 and 2) is recorded as 'Pitty' and inside the northeast wall on Zone 1 is a small sub-rectangular enclosure recorded as 'Pitty Orchard' (plot 1949). The major part of the interior of the site, covering the spur, is divided into three plots with Oldaport Wood at the tip of spur, as in earlier mapping, and two large arable fields; east of Oldaport Wood is 'Point Park' and to the east again is 'Well Park'. The latter is presumably named for the spring (Zone 2) which is within this paddock, although not marked on the tithe map. Table 2 is based upon a transcription of the Modbury tithe apportionment showing all relevant and adjacent fields, including plot numbers, ownership, land use and a description.

Plot	Landowner	Occupier	Land use	Description	Tenement
1747	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Arable	Lower Great Park	Oldaport
1748	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Arable	Crosslands	Oldaport
1749	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Coppice	Coppice	Lower Orcheton
1750	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Higher Hour Glass	Lower Orcheton
1751	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Pasture	Dry Meadow	Lower Orcheton
1752	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Square Field	Lower Orcheton
1753	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Hour Glass	Lower Orcheton
1754	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Arable	Higher Great Park	Oldaport
1942	Bulsteel, John Crocker	Fryatt, Francis	Pasture	New Meadow	Great Orcheton
1943	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Western Field	Lower Orcheton
1944	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Middle Field	Lower Orcheton
1945	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Orchard	Orchard	Lower Orcheton
1946	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	-	House, Garden & Court	Lower Orcheton
1947	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Barn Park	Lower Orcheton
1948	Bulsteel, John Crocker	White, Jeffery	Arable	Green Park	Lower Orcheton
1949	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Pasture	Pitty	Oldaport
1950	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Wood	Pitty	Oldaport
1951	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Orchard	Pitty Orchard	Oldaport
1952	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	-	House, garden and court	Oldaport
1953	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Pasture	Rookery	Oldaport
1954	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Orchard	Orchard	Oldaport
1955	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Meadow	Part of Garden Meadow	Oldaport
1956	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Meadow	Part of Garden Meadow	Oldaport
1957	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Meadow	Garden Park	Oldaport
1958	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Arable	Well Park	Oldaport
1959	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	-	Wood & Road	Oldaport
1959a	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	-	Waste	Oldaport
1960	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Pasture	Great Meadow	Oldaport
1961	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Orchard	Point Park Orchard	Oldaport
1962	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Meadow	Nursery	Oldaport
1963	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Arable	Point Park	Oldaport
1964	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Wood	Wood	Oldaport
1965	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Wood	Wood	Oldaport
1966	Cranstoun, Lord	Pearse, Richard	Wood	Wood	Oldaport

Table 2: Detail transcribed from the Modbury Tithe Apportionment, 1841

Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch Devon sheet 1886-87

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1886-1887 shows the arrangement of fields as the same as on the tithe map of 1841, with the area of the ditch (Zone 1) still shown as wooded and labelled as 'Pitty Orchard'. The significant differences are the depicting of the ditch in Zone 1 and the labelling of the position of the 'site of' two towers, in the locations that define the northwest and southwest corners of Zone 1. The centre of the spur is also marked 'Fort (remains of)'. The line of the upstanding wall in Zone 1, which is shown as straight on the Tithe Map, is illustrated as having a significant dog leg to the northeast at its north end, which matches a surviving length of earthen bank. At the tip of the spur, the Flete Estate carriageway had been constructed involving a single span arched bridge over the Ayleston Brook and a causeway.

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25-inch Devon sheet 1906

The Second Edition of 1906 shows that only the ditch itself contains trees. The middle of the site is now labelled 'fort'.

Ordnance Survey post-WWII mapping

The major change is that by the 1980s the north-south boundary on the spur dividing the two main fields had been removed. This has since been replaced to the edge of the drop on the northern side of the spur by a post and wire fence on the same line. A post and wire fence has also been built along the line of the break of slope on the northern side of the spur. This represents the line that divides management Zones 2 and 4. Also in this period the north and west boundaries and trees of Pitty Orchard were removed. A wooden post and wire fence compound has been constructed in the area using the rear of the northeast wall. Directly to the south of the SM and to the west of the Oldaport Farm buildings a large (42 x 14m) agricultural shed has been constructed.

4.4 Historic Landscape Characterisation (Fig. 4)

The Historic Landscape Characterisation exercise for Devon shows several fields of medieval origin, including a group of strip fields (Devon HER MDV21376) on the opposite valley side to the south of Oldaport. On the north slope down to Orcheton Mill a group of fields either side of the lane and including the paddock recorded as 'Pitty' on the tithe apportionment is characterised as medieval enclosures. The remainder of the fields within Oldaport are regarded as of more recent origin.

4.5 Summary of the archaeological resource

Zone 1: The most obvious features of the site today are the northeast wall and ditch. The wall may have once straddled the neck of the spur, a distance of about 100m. It has a rubble and mortar core, with facing stones surviving both front and rear. The interior of the wall is backed by an earthen bank. The ditch, which is parallel to the wall and fronts it, is separated from the wall by a wide berm. It does not front the entire length of the wall. Its southern end has been slighted by probable quarrying and is currently used as a parking area. At the northern end of the ditch slight earthworks continue the line of the ditch across the spur.

4.6 Zone 2: On the steep north slope of the spur a wall runs down at an angle to the Ayleston Brook, probably to include a freshwater spring within the circuit. On the external side, facing the land of Orcheton Quay, the wall stands to a height of up to 3m. The wall is topped by a hedgebank which forms the majority of the height of the wall on the internal side.

- 4.7** Zone 3: The earthworks on the southern side, which are slight, may include a ditch which is now used as a track and adjacent tree-topped bank that runs from Oldaport Farm to the head of Orcheton Creek.
- 4.8** Zone 4: This is the large area on top of the spur. It is largely level and overlooked by hills to north and south with views west blocked by Oldaport Wood and east by the wall and earthworks of Zone 1. To the northeast there are far-reaching views to Dartmoor, and Brent Hill by South Brent is a distinct feature 14km away. There are no obvious extant archaeological features in this area, but aerial photography and geophysical survey show that the area has many buried features of archaeological interest.
- 4.9** Zone 5: A further putative earthwork and ditch is present further to the northeast where it has been proposed that the hedgebank and hollow way of the public road represent an outermost line of defences. These too, straddle the spur.
- 4.10** Oldaport Wood at the tip of the spur is outside of the HLS area, but has earthworks and a short section of mortared wall. Here there is a curved hollow-way leading from the original creek side up onto the spur. This track ends at a gap between two earthen banks, the butt ends of which form a gateway. These banks can be traced for a short distance in each direction. To the north are the remains of a wall in front of the bank. Although this wall utilised smaller blocks of stone than the larger walls elsewhere on the site, it is similar in being over 1m thick and full of mortar.
- 4.11 Previous interventions**
Cottrill (1935) provided a plan of the northeast defences (Zone 1) and suggested a date for them of either Roman or Dark Ages; concluding 'that only the spade will determine the age of this ruin.' Jope and Threlfall (1942) excavated three trenches (Jope archive, Figs 5 and 6), two in the northeast fortifications and another to the southwest over the site of the 'south tower'. The ditch was found to be silted to a depth of 1.3m and the bank behind the wall consisted of dumped shillet. The south tower foundations were not located, although the site photographs clearly show lengths of buried masonry.
- 4.12** Farley and Little (1968) proposed a two-phase sequence for the site: Phase 1 being a rectangular enclosure at the head of the spur (matching Zone 1), possibly of Romano-British date, represented by the line of the northeastern defences and the two adjoining sides to the west by the significant breaks of slope with the western side, which would have been in the area between the two towers marked on the OS map, no longer extant. The mortared stone wall was of Phase 2 which enclosed the whole of the spur. They were the first to note the wall, running down to the Ayleston Brook (Zone 2), as a constituent component of the circuit. A trial trench was placed to check the proposed southeastern side of the Phase 1 enclosure (Fig. 7). The excavation revealed the line of the Phase 2 masonry wall and a small unidentifiable sherd of pottery was recovered from below the wall's foundation trench. The topsoil produced a 'much abraded sherd of probable samian' (Farley and Little 1968, 35). The packing behind the wall contained an iron nail. They concluded that '[n]o date can be ascribed at this stage to the secondary fortification; neither Roman, Dark Age or early medieval date can be firmly ruled out. Clearly its situation on the Erme is of paramount importance, but its extent makes it unlikely to have been simply a defence for the harbour' (Farley and Little 1968, 36).
- 4.13** In 1990 fieldwork for an undergraduate dissertation included geophysical (resistivity) and topographic survey. New aerial photographic information from images taken by

Frances Griffith in 1989 was also included in a re-assessment of the site. Although no sign of the western side of the enclosure of Farley and Little's Phase 1 was found, it was concluded that the Phase 2 site was best compared with Anglo-Saxon *burh* sites built to defend Wessex against Viking incursions (Rainbird 1998).

4.14 Following a field visit by Robert Waterhouse for EH's Monuments Protection Programme in 1999 the SM was extended to include the hedgebank and lane to the northeast of the northeast defences (Zone 5) as he considered that they were potentially a further set of outworks for the fort.

4.15 In 2004 an absolute date for the wall was determined from wood charcoal extracted from the mortar bonding the northeast wall (Zone 1). A sample was identified as hazel, a short lived species, and AMS dating provided the result of 1098 +/- 45 bp (NZA 17401), calibrated (at 91.9%) to between AD 873 and 1020 (Rainbird and Druce 2004).

4.16 In 2007 an extensive geophysical survey was carried out by Exeter University. This provided further detail for previously observed features and several new features were identified. This is reproduced as Fig. 8, which also includes the University's interpretation. Much of the area directly behind the NE wall was excluded as there was too much interference from buried metal objects and adjacent wire stock fencing. The survey reaffirmed the position of the enclosure previously identified in Zone 4 (labelled 5 on Fig. 8), but also added a clear NW-SE aligned ditch crossing the spur further west in Zone 4 and another similarly oriented ditch crossing the spur directly outside and adjacent to the large ditch and earthworks in Zone 1 (12 on Fig. 8). In Zone 4 further features were identified including a possible double sub-circular double-ditch and bank enclosure (9), a rectangular building (10), a circular pit-like feature (7) and a circle of apparent pit features (3). In Zone 1 several linear anomalies at right-angles to one another (2) were oriented roughly N-S, E-W. Directly to the north of these an area of burning was identified (1). In Zone 5 approximately E-W aligned linear anomalies (11) were interpreted as representing the underlying geology. None of the possible archaeological features, excepting the ditch (12) in Zone 1, is easy to interpret in relation to the known archaeology of the site, although some of these will be discussed further where appropriate below.

4.17 Aerial photography

Aerial photographs were studied as an aid to identifying and locating features. RAF photographs from 1946 appear to show in shadow-relief an off-set gateway to the southwest of the northeast wall (Zone 1). More recently, the aerial photographs produced by Frances Griffith in 1989 have revealed internal features such as a large square enclosure in the centre of the site (Zone 4).

4.18 LiDAR

Airborne laser scanning data presented as a digital terrain model produced by the Environment Agency was consulted as an aid to identifying surface features. The apparent off-set gateway visible on the RAF 1946 aerial photography is a clear feature. A feature previously not identified was an apparent earthwork bank located in Oldaport Wood running from close to the tip of the spur in a northerly direction and taking in the upper edge overlooking Ayleston Brook. As viewed on LiDAR it appeared that this feature was confined to Oldaport Woods, outside of the area which is the subject of this report; however, observations on the ground showed that it continued as a standing earthwork in the southwest end of Zone 2 and is discussed further below.

4.19 Devon Heritage Centre – Coat of Arms

An unpublished armory of Devon families by J.W. Benson of about 1959 is held by the Devon Heritage Centre and includes the arms of the De la Porte family. The illustrated version of 'sable a castle argent' shows a silver quadrangular castle with corner towers and gateway central to the front wall on a black shield. The castle image would appear to suit the site well, but there is no evidence that the image comes from an original shield depiction as the source is given as Sir William Pole (1791) who appears to provide a written description only. A subsequent search of the medieval churches of Modbury and Kingston found no comparable arms. At present it must be concluded that the image is not a reliable indicator of medieval Oldaport.

5. SURVEY RESULTS – ZONE 1 by Stella De Villiers and Paul Rainbird (Figs 9-10 and 12; Plates 1-6)

5.1 The northeast wall

SM description: Part of the wall fronting the eastern rampart survives for a distance of 35m. It stands between 1m and 2.7m high and is 1.3m thick, backed by an earth rampart about 5m thick by 2m high. A disturbance in its centre, where the rampart is lower, is associated with a hole in the wall 2.6m wide and a spread of rubble to the east. This may be the site of a gate or a tower. A berm outside this wall is 13m across, fronted by an unfinished ditch 11m wide by 2.5m deep, with an outer glacis 7m wide by 0.8m high. The ditch stops halfway across the hilltop and cuts two parallel banks, the inner of which is 12m thick by 0.6m high and the outer 10m thick by 0.4m high.

5.2 *Description of works:* The northeast wall was cleared of the majority of vegetation prior to the commencement of archaeological survey. The archaeological works started with the detailed drawing and photography of the exposed stonework. This was followed by a digital survey of the wall and adjacent earthworks.

5.3 *General description:* The northeast wall forms the central part of a field boundary the line of which is continued uninterrupted at its north and south ends by hedgebanks, both of which terminate at field gates. The hedgebank extensions were mostly topped by vegetation at the time of survey, but both appeared to retain some elements of the northeast wall. The northern hedgebank was the densest in terms of vegetation with hazel coppice stands and dense blackthorn plants, holly and other typical hedgerow species. At its northernmost end a section was revealed showing inner facing stones of the wall (see Fig. 10c). The south hedgebank extension was less densely vegetated and capped with mature trees and a thorn bush. The half closest to the standing wall, in the area of a water trough which stands directly on the exterior of it, showed evidence of mortared core material typical of the northeast wall. Further south the hedgebank may be a complete rebuild with a well-built dry stone revetment on its exterior. Both hedgebanks had minor evidence for wild animal burrowing.

5.4 *Exterior:* This side of the northeast wall consists of exposed rubble core material apart from a small part at the base of the wall at the northern end where up to three courses of facing stones remained. In this area there was a large quantity of leaf litter and the removal of this would probably uncover more facing stones (as seen in Jope's archive photos; Fig. 6). There was significant evidence of robbing activity with areas of undercutting of material where stone had been removed. In the core material there was no formal coursing, however, in an area towards the southern end of the wall the stones were angled and may to an untrained eye look like a herring bone pattern. A large percentage of mortar survives amongst the stones; this is hard, grey white with sub-angular stone inclusions up to 4mm in diameter. At the base of the wall, at the northern end is a notched stone. The hedgebank at the northern end

of the wall contains a high percentage of stone, presumably reused from the demolished wall.

- 5.5** *Interior:* Only the top of this side of the wall is visible as most is obscured by a bank set against it. The visible masonry consists of facing material and the rubble core. The facing stones are mainly sub-rectangular blocks laid on their long sides, with occasional sub-square blocks, bonded in a hard grey white mortar with sub-angular stone inclusions up to 4 mm in diameter. The mortar has differential preservation, in some parts it is only just visible within the joints of the stonework, but in other places it is flush and overlapping the stonework in a form of render. Two possible putlog holes were visible in this elevation (Plate 4). The internal bank sits against the interior of the northeast wall and a small level area is located directly behind the wall. The bank tapers out to the north and south, although in the south it is disturbed by buried farm machinery.
- 5.6** *Exterior earthworks:* The large ditch outside of the northeast wall appears to have suffered historical quarrying at its southern end. At its northern end it appears to have truncated an earthwork bank which runs parallel with a bank to the east which runs across the spur and along the outer lip of the large ditch. This bank is truncated also by the quarrying at its southern end. The Exeter University geophysical survey shows that this has a matching (buried and infilled) outer ditch and this is also evident as a dark line of vegetation in the 1989 aerial photographs and was also visible on the ground in July 2014 as a cropmark approximately 5m wide; it was no longer visible following a period of rain in August, when an attempt to survey it in plan was not possible. It can however, be observed in the surveyed profile through the defences. These slighter earthworks appear to pre-date the large ditch and may be remnants of an Iron Age or Romano-British farmstead enclosure as proposed in Rainbird (1998); in this scenario the large ditch and the northeastern wall are of a later phase.
- 5.7** *Condition:* On the northeast side of the wall there was a concentration of ivy and other surface plants growing on the top portion of the wall, and on the southwest side vegetation is mainly growing from the top of the wall. It is not clear how much damage the roots are doing versus the protection from frost damage that the foliage may provide. There are small shrubs and nettles growing close to the base of the wall and a few growing in it and on top of it. These have the potential to grow into larger plants whose roots may cause damage to the stone work. There are a few large stumps (from recently chopped-down trees) and the roots have caused major damage to the wall, displacing stones and mortar. Removing these roots is likely to cause further damage. There is a break in the wall which has partially filled with slumped bank material containing some loose stone. Tree stumps and small shrubs grow within this breach. It is possible that there may be the remains of some stonework below this material, which could be damaged by the plant growth. The earthworks, except the large ditch, have few signs of erosion, but are susceptible to animal and plant erosion. The northeast side of the large ditch shows significant evidence of stock erosion through poaching where shrubs and bushes provide shade and shelter.
- 5.8** *Management recommendations:* The recent history of the northeast wall indicates that it has survived through benign neglect. There is no evidence for continued stone robbing and the main threat is through farm developments, animal rubbing and most particularly vegetation growth where it is clear that the root systems of trees has caused the majority of recorded detached stonework in recent times. The vegetation needs to be controlled, not only on the central part of the northeast wall, but on the hedgerows which continue to the north and south and in relation to the return of the

line of the wall to the southwest where large trees, particularly the sycamores need their growth checked through pollarding to reduce the problems of windage.

Specific recommendations:

- 5.8.1: R1:** Plant growth should be regularly monitored and the growth of large shrubs and trees suppressed – this includes the wall, ditch and other associated earthworks and archaeologically sensitive areas. More immediately the ivy growing on the extant parts of the northeast wall should be killed off using weed killer. The northern hedgebank extension of the northeast wall should have the hedge managed through laying. This work has been undertaken and was completed in January 2015, with the trees on the southern hedgebank extension managed through coppicing. The water trough abutting the exterior of the southern hedgebank extension of the northeast wall should be moved to the line of the post and wire fence on the opposite side of the gate which provides access to Pitty paddock from the car parking area. Moving and re-burying the water pipe will require archaeological monitoring.
- 5.8.2: R2:** The post and wire fence along the front side of the wall should be removed, and replaced with a temporary electric fence, moved regularly, to prevent stock animals from rubbing against the front of the wall. This was completed in January 2015.
- 5.8.3: R3:** Fencing should be removed from the temporary compound directly abutting the rear of the wall. This will require SMC. The area should be cleaned up and the introduced material removed from the SM area. All works relating to the removal of the fencing should be monitored by an archaeologist.
- 5.8.4: R4:** The post and wire fence along the rear side of the wall and associated bank should be removed and replaced with a temporary electric fence, moved regularly, to prevent stock animal access to the earthwork at the rear of the wall. This should be located away from the base of the bank to avoid poaching.
- 5.8.5: R5:** The nature of the external ditch is poorly understood and is suffering from animal poaching. In order to better understand this feature for the purposes of management, an excavation should take place to consider the deposits and in particular try and find evidence for dating. This could be achieved by re-opening the 1938 trench and expanding the section a short distance to the south. The immediate problem of stock animal erosion could be remedied by vegetation clearance and/or electric fencing.
- 5.8.6: R6:** The nature of the earthworks directly to the north of the ditch is also poorly understood, both in form and date. The 1989 aerial photograph and 2006 geophysical survey show that a buried ditch crossed the spur in front of the earthworks and the nature of the ditch and possible dating evidence could be exposed by a targeted excavation, with the aim of better informing the management of these features. It was visible as a c. 5m wide cropmark in July 2014.
- 5.8.7: R7:** The northeast wall should be sensitively consolidated, by repointing where necessary and the top capped to prevent water ingress and inhibit plant growth. This work, although somewhat preserving the aesthetic, should not use materials that may in future be confused with the original surviving fabric, which at present contains the only securely datable material on the site. To the rear of the wall the bank should be trimmed to encourage low grass, the problem of part-buried farm machinery in the southern end of the extant bank should be remedied by controlled archaeological removal; this latter recommendation was completed in January 2015 and is reported on in Section 12 below.

- 5.8.8: R8:** The short slope on the north side of the Phase 1 enclosure which drops down to the hedgebank on this side is suffering from erosion by stock. Judicious use of temporary electric fencing and reduction in the overhanging limbs of trees in this area should allow for the regrowth of grass in these patches. The overhanging limbs were removed in January 2015.
- 5.8.9: R9:** The heavily eroded hedgebank on the opposite side of the trackway below the mapped position of the south tower has suffered from historic animal erosion. In order to remedy this situation the gaps in the hedgebank should be filled. The method for doing this is as outlined in the specification brief (Vulliamy 2013) and consists of soil-filled hessian bags to rebuild the profile of the hedgebank, with these covered in hessian sheeting and covered in soil and re-seeded for grass. Stock animals will need to be kept from the hedgebank through electric fencing while the vegetation is established. These works should also extend westwards into the eastern end of Zone 3.

6. SURVEY RESULTS – ZONE 2 by Paul Rainbird (Fig. 11; Plates 7-9)

6.1 The northwest angle wall and spring

SM description: The nature of the rampart changes here. Where it angles up the hillside, it survives about 3m wide, rising 1m from the interior and falling about 2.5m to an outer ditch. The rampart is fronted by a coursed stone wall of clay bonded rubble, about 2m high. The outer ditch is 15m wide by 0.3m deep.

- 6.2** *Description of works:* The northwestern boundary of the site within the SM was recorded only from the internal side as the external side faces on to a field belonging to a neighbouring property (Orcheton Quay). Previous recording has shown that the exterior of the wall stands to up to 3m high. Above the wall a hedgebank covered with mature hedgerow shrubs and trees was recorded. The hedgebank may be part of the original structure of defences as is indicated at the far northwestern end where there is a stretch of interior stone facing of the hedgebank at a point where it appears to sharply turn to the north. The spring is occasionally defined by an area of wet ground within a natural coombe, from which water has been extracted using a ceramic pipe covered with stones that feeds a metal bath. The bath is located within a lower area of ground characterised by erosion hollows caused by stock.
- 6.3** *Condition:* During the current project it was clear that the external face of the northwest wall is under significant threat from unchecked vegetation growth. This appears to have caused collapse and undermining. The hedgebank is in poor condition with evidence of animal burrowing, root disturbance and stock erosion. The spring has no formal structure associated with it, but the depression in which it sits and the area around it is significantly damaged by stock erosion.
- 6.4** *Management recommendations:* The northwest angle wall faces on to a neighbouring property and is outside of the area of the HLS agreement. It is however within the SM. The external face has not been subject to detailed recording and this, along with a plan for consolidation as a matter of urgency, is outside the scope of the current project, but the landowners should be encouraged to prevent stock from accessing the wall and hedgebank and controlling further damage by vegetation.

Specific recommendations:

- 6.4.1: R10:** The current post and wire fence encroaches on the hedgebank in a few places. The nature of this hedgebank is uncertain, but there is good chance that it is related to wall material. When this fence next requires replacing, a system of fencing which does not damage the hedgebank should be erected.
- 6.4.2: R11:** The area of the spring is being damaged by stock erosion. The nature of the archaeological deposits that form the terrace above the Ayleston Brook where the spring is located are poorly understood. It was proposed that this area would be investigated through a geophysical survey. However, due to the narrow width of the terrace and the wire fence along the northern boundary, meaningful results are unlikely to be achieved. Instead, it is proposed that archaeological deposits within this area should be tested by test pitting (and if necessary additional coring) with the aim of informing the management of the area of the spring. It is proposed that a transect of 1m² test pits is excavated across the terrace, to the immediate southwest of the spring. This was completed in January 2015 and is reported below in Section 12. The results of the excavations indicate that the terrace in which the spring is located is formed from infilling of a natural slope, perhaps representing former bank material. R11 is therefore updated. No specific recommendations are put forward although consideration should be given to options to halt erosion at the base of the spring. This could include movement of the drinking trough further uphill where below-ground deposits are less sensitive or the creation of a revetment of the current eroded area to stop this erosion creeping back into undisturbed archaeological deposits. Any significant management proposals to the area of the spring should be accompanied by archaeological monitoring and recording in the form of a watching brief.
- 6.4.3: R12:** Patches of erosion have been caused by stock within the line of the wooden post and wire fence at the top of the slope where Zone 2 meets Zone 4. A selection of these should be archaeologically assessed by cleaning them in order to observe whether archaeological deposits are being damaged for management proposals to be made.

7. SURVEY RESULTS – ZONE 3 by Paul Rainbird (Fig. 9; Plates 10-14)

7.1 The southwestern boundary

SM description: The ramparts of the main enclosure survive as earthworks towards the south west end of the promontory, but elsewhere have largely been reduced. Their outer face varies ... between 3m and 5m on the south side, where an outer ditch survives as a terrace about 12m wide.

7.2 *Description of works:* The southwestern boundary of the site within the SM is established by a track which leads from Oldaport Farm and follows a gentle gradient southwest towards the arm of the Erme estuary below Oldaport Wood. The south side of this track is formed by an earth and stone field wall and has been topped by the deliberate planting of trees in groups. The track is, in part, terraced into the hillside on its north side. As the track extends westwards it drops further down the slope from the top of the spur.

7.3 *Condition:* This slope is mostly wooded and has several patches of erosion from stock use and some animal burrowing. At the eastern end where the track first begins to dip down below the level of the spur there is widespread erosion of the slope on its north side and a patch of tumbled stone and mortar was revealed just below the location of the south tower as marked on the SM map (Fig. 2).

- 7.4 *Management recommendations:* The nature of the circuit of the fort on this southwest side is poorly understood. The outer field wall is damaged by historic stock erosion and some current stock erosion where troughs are present. The character of the archaeology has been assessed through the process of the survey and the feature is now believed to be a green lane and outer field hedgebank and *not* the line of an earlier defensive ditch and bank.

Specific recommendation:

- 7.4.1: **R13:** Remove dead and leaning trees (to prevent damage from windage) from the green lane and manage the vegetation, particularly by trimming overhanging branches, to allow the green lane to be maintained as a track.

8. SURVEY RESULTS – ZONE 4 by Paul Rainbird (Plates 15-16)

8.1 Interior of the fort

SM description: This monument includes a large univallate hillfort, occupying a promontory which projects into the estuary of the River Erme. It commands a high and prominent location with wide local views. The monument survives as a long tapering enclosure, aligned north east to south west, with an interior measuring up to 200m wide by 910m long, although the north east end narrows to a maximum of 105m wide.

- 8.2 *Description of works:* The interior of the fort on the top of the spur was subject to a walkover survey. There are no earthworks in this area, although buried archaeological features have been recognised through previous aerial photography and geophysical survey.

- 8.3 *Condition:* The area is under closely grazed grass pasture.

- 8.4 *Management recommendations:* The archaeological resource in this area is poorly understood.

Specific recommendations:

- 8.4.1: **R14:** The locations of stock animal feeding troughs should be regularly changed to avoid erosion.

- 8.4.2: **R15:** The stock grazing regime should allow for good grass growth to help avoid soil displacement.

9. SURVEY RESULTS – ZONE 5 by Paul Rainbird (Fig. 11; Plates 17-20)

9.1 The northeastern hedgebank and lane

SM description: A further line of defence lies about 55m to the north east. This has a rampart between 3m and 10m thick and 0.4m to 0.7m high, fronted by a ditch whose course is now followed by a metalled lane. This is about 12m wide by 2.5m deep.

- 9.2 *Description of works:* The northeastern hedgebank and lane was included in the SM following the MPP in 1999. The northern part of the hedgebank belongs to the neighbouring property of Orcheton Quay (formerly Lower Orcheton) and the lane belongs to DCC, so is also, strictly speaking, beyond the concerns of this report. These hedgebanks have previously been interpreted as remnant ramparts forming outworks in association with the current lane in the description for the SM. The scheduled hedgebank belonging to Oldaport Farm is divided into two sections. The

longest portion forms the northeastern side of the paddock named 'Pitty' in the tithe apportionment (1841). The current survey indicates that the bank forms the northeast and northwest boundaries of the paddock, with the additional scheduled section within Orcheton Quay being a separate boundary between the field and road. The shorter section of the scheduled hedgebank is above the lane to the southeast of the vehicle entrance to Oldaport Farm from the public lane and forms the northeastern boundary of a small paddock named 'Rookery' on the Modbury tithe.

- 9.3** *Condition:* The Pitty field hedgebank is covered in mixed shrubby vegetation, gorse and a few small trees. The hedgebank appears to be earthen with little obvious stone within the bank. There is much evidence for animal burrowing. There are two short sections of facing stone; at the north end the internal side is faced by dry stone walling which turns the corner to join with the northern hedgebank of Pitty field. Central to the hedgebank is a telegraph pole dug into the bank and to the south of this is the second short stretch of dry stone walling on the inside face of the hedgebank. There is a well-maintained wooden post and wire fence protecting the hedgebank from stock erosion.

The scheduled hedgebank forming the eastern boundary of the small paddock of the Rookery is of a different character to that of Pitty field described above. It is of rounded profile with cropped vegetation and three mature trees on top. It appears to be constructed of earth and shillet fragments and there is no significant evidence for animal burrowing. A post and wire fence has been placed on the outside edge of the hedgebank above the steep drop to the public metalled lane. There is a small erosion scarp on the inside base of the hedgebank, which is presumably the result of minor stock erosion.

- 9.4** *Management recommendations:* The nature of the fort on this outer northeast side is poorly understood. The current survey does not indicate that the field boundaries either side of the entrance to Oldaport are morphologically similar and therefore contemporary, and there is no evidence to indicate that these boundaries are relict defences.

Specific recommendation:

- 9.4.1: R16:** No works which would result in further damage to the hedgebank should be undertaken.

10. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 10.1** Prior to the implementation of any of the management recommendations proposed above it is important to consider the potential of the archaeological resource to be managed.

10.2 Zone 1

The northeast wall, ditch and associated earthworks form an impressive collection of extant features. Remains in the fabric of the wall have the potential (as already achieved on one occasion through radiocarbon dating of trapped charcoal) for providing absolute dating and future techniques for mortar and palaeoenvironmental analyses.

The deposits filling the base of the ditch, the ditch located by geophysical survey running across the spur directly to the east of the open ditch and the deposits within and below the earthworks to the north of the open ditch and behind the masonry wall

may all preserve significant evidence for the date, phasing and palaeoenvironment of the camp.

The possible Phase 1 enclosure, defined by the line of the northeast wall and the sites of the two towers marked on the OS maps, has the potential for buried archaeological remains. A pair of sub-circular anomalies on the 1990 geophysical survey matching the line between the two towers on the map may relate to foundations of tower-like structures, and less prominent but suggestive linear geophysics anomalies within the area of the Phase 1 enclosure may relate to former buildings.

10.3 Zone 2

The northwest wall running at an angle from the top of the spur to the cliff above the Ayleston Brook is a significant but poorly understood feature. The fabric of the wall and the overlying bank have the potential to provide dating and palaeoenvironmental data.

The terrace above the Ayleston Brook has the potential for buried archaeological remains, perhaps related to access to the tidal brook or to the provision of circuit defences along this northern side of the spur.

The spring located on the terrace appears to have been a significant feature at the time the northwest wall was built as it appears to have been purposefully incorporated within the circuit provided by the northwest wall. There may be buried structural remains relating to the spring. There is also the potential for votive deposits often associated with spring heads. The spring gives its name to the Well Park field within which it was located at the time of the tithe map (1841).

Satellite imagery (Get Mapping and Bing) show a linear feature part way down the slope to the west end of Zone 2. It stops at the point where the former field wall crossed the spur. It appears that this feature was a former field wall dividing the western-most of the two large fields marked on the tithe map (1841).

10.4 Zone 3

The southwest circuit enclosing the spur is poorly defined. The 1946 RAF aerial photograph appears to show an earthwork following the line at the top of the break of slope as far as the current post and wire fence which crosses the spur. This line follows the contour.

The SM description that the green lane on this side may follow the line of a ditch related to the fort, would appear to be contradicted by the nature of the trackway which does not follow the contour below any assumed rampart or wall on the edge of the spur above. Indeed the consistent gradient followed by the track, and its characteristic field wall (rather than counterscarp bank) on its south side, are suggestive of the purpose of this feature as a track joining Oldaport Farm with the estuary. This track may also continue to the northeast with the tithe map indicating a crossroads where the track meets the lane at the entrance to Oldaport Farm. If this assessment is correct then only the area on the spur above the slope has archaeological potential.

10.5 Zone 4

The top of the spur forming the interior of the fort has significant potential for the survival of archaeological deposits. The evidence from aerial photography and geophysical survey has shown that the buried remains of linear and other features

survive. Some of the linear features forming a divided sub-square enclosure have previously been interpreted as Late Saxon property boundaries, but this is speculative and reliant on the dating of the fort as Late Saxon. The northeast wall has subsequently been dated by the radiocarbon method to the Late Saxon period but it does not necessarily follow that the features in Zone 4 are contemporary with this or with each other. This means that the archaeological potential of Zone 4 is significant, but the resource itself is poorly understood.

10.6 Zone 5

The SM listing of the metalled public lane and the hedgebank as a possible outer rampart and ditch is interesting but speculative.

The public metalled lane, known locally as part of the 'over the hills road', passes through a deep hollow way as it crosses the spur. In places this is up to 3m deep with exposed natural stone and earth on each side. A factor in support of this feature as an outer ditch is that for a short stretch it runs parallel with the northeast wall and earthworks of Zone 1. However, the nature of this hollow-way does not differ from others present in the deep lanes of the South Hams.

The fact that the road curves away from the fort to the northeast and southeast is also less suggestive of a former earthwork related to the fort than if it curved in towards the fort to the northwest and southwest, i.e. inwards towards defences on its north and south sides.

Where the road curves down the hill in the direction of Orcheton Mill cartographic evidence illustrates that it cuts a grid pattern of fields all held as part of a single tenement in 1841 according to the tithe apportionment. A corollary of this observation is that the track heading to the east of the crossroads in front of Oldaport Farm, the continuation of the green lane (Zone 3), may have formerly been the major route. This track appears to be a continuation of an arm of a Saxon period network of ridgeway routes described by Slater (1991).

The scheduled hedgebank above the lane on the east side of Pitty Field and the Rookery does not show any features of distinction that would indicate that they are the remains of a former rampart above an outer ditch. At the north end the internal side is faced by dry stone walling which turns the corner to join with the northern hedgebank of Pitty Field. The field evidence is inconclusive, but it appears that the scheduled hedgebank joining from the north abuts this corner and would thus not be a continuation of a former rampart.

It is also of note that the Exeter University geophysical survey found no anomalies of archaeological interest in Pitty Field to the east of the ditch adjacent to the extant earthworks of Zone 1.

The field boundaries and the line of the lane are almost certainly of medieval origin, as indicated by the historic landscape characterisation (see above), but most probably post-date the fort.

11. PRIORITISATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTION

- 11.1** The management recommendations set out above have been drawn up in line with existing or proposed threats and prioritised in relation to the current funding allowed by the HLS.

11.2 High priority

- 11.2.1** The removal of further threat to the archaeological resource by the management of stock animals. The specific instances have been set out above (R1, R2, R4, R5, R8, R10, R11, R12, R14, and R15). R2, R8, R11 and part of R1 were completed in January 2015.
- 11.2.2** The removal of further threat to the archaeological resource by the management of vegetation. The specific instances have been set out above (R1, R5, R8, R9, and R13). R8 and part of R1 were completed in January 2015.
- 11.2.3** Removal of the compound fence behind the hedgebank the northeast wall (Zone 1) (R3).
- 11.2.4** Characterisation of components of the archaeological resource by targeted limited interventions (R7, R11 and as a later phase possibly R5 and R6). These will require SMC. Results from these interventions will result in further recommendations and priorities. R7 and R11 were completed in January 2015 and are reported on in Section 12 below.
- 11.2.5** The northeast wall (Zone 1) should be consolidated. This work should not threaten the integrity of the original fabric (R7).
- 11.2.6** The water trough abutting the exterior of the wall should be repositioned to reduce the potential for stock damage (R1).

11.3 Medium priority

Responses to other threats should be drawn up if and when activities associated with these threats are programmed. No details of such works are known, and these are identified as a low priority.

12 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION – JANUARY 2015

12.1 The management survey (above) includes two recommendations that involve intrusive archaeological investigations within the monument. Recommendation 7 states that in Zone 1 "to the rear of the wall the bank should be trimmed to encourage low grass, the problem of part-buried farm machinery in the southern end of the extant bank should be remedied by controlled archaeological removal". In Zone 2 where damage is being caused by poaching of grazing animals Recommendation 10 states that to characterise below-ground deposits "it is proposed that a transect of 1m² test pits is excavated across the terrace, to the immediate southwest of the spring". These interventions took place in January 2015 and are reported here. The works were conducted following the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent and followed the approved project design (Passmore 2014). In Zone 1 a single trench (Trench 1) was excavated adjacent to the farm machinery and in Zone 2 a transect of four test pits (2-5) were excavated. The locations of the excavations are shown in the accompanying plan (Fig. 2).

12.2 Zone 1 – Trench 1 (Fig. 13)

The part-buried farm machinery was removed under archaeological control. It was buried within the turf and topsoil, which had developed around the abandoned machinery. Trench 1 was aligned NE-SW and measured 10m long by 0.95m wide. It was machine excavated down to natural (102) which consisted of mid yellowish and greyish brown clay with frequent shillet fragments. The trench exposed in section a

series of bank deposits, 1m thick at the northeast end, overlying a possible buried soil deposit (110) and underlying a topsoil (100) 0.14m thick. These are discussed in more detail below.

- 12.3** Following the removal of semi-buried obsolete farm machinery the opportunity was taken to investigate probable bank deposits located abutting the NE wall of the site. The bank had been recorded during the archaeological survey (see above), but was thought to survive only poorly in this area (Fig. 9). Following a previous excavation of the bank abutting the rear of the NE wall it was described by Jope and Threlfall (1942) as composed of 'piled shillet'. Further detailed description from Jope and Threlfall is not forthcoming in either the published report or the archive. The primary and later bank deposits in the current project, although containing shillet fragments, is soil-rich, with significant root penetration and thus differs from that reported by Jope and Threlfall.
- 12.4** A possible buried soil (110) consisted of a greyish brown clay up to 0.2m thick. It was sealed below primary bank deposit (109) but soon petered out below main bank deposit (106). The primary bank deposit (109) was 0.22m thick and consisted of light brown silty clay with frequent shillet fragments. Secondary core bank material was made up of two deposits (107 and 108). Bank material (108) was 0.28m thick and consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent shillet fragments and deposit (107) was a mid reddish brown silty clay with very frequent shillet. The majority of the bank material was a deposit (106) which was up to 0.64m thick and consisted of light brownish grey silt clay with very frequent shillet fragments.
- 12.5** The overlying deposits consisted of a subsoil (101), which contained a body sherd of post-medieval Totnes-Type ware pottery, a buried subsoil (105), probably containing some slumped bank material and a further buried subsoil (104). Subsoil (104) was 0.37m thick and consisted of mid brownish silty clay with frequent shillet fragments and deposit (101) was 0.32m thick and consisted of medium brown silty clay with very frequent shillet fragments. Sandwiched between these was further possible buried subsoil (105) which extended to the SW end of the trench and measured up to 0.21m thick and consisted of light reddish brown silty clay with frequent shale fragments and subangular quartz stones. A linear hollow in the top of 104 was a probable animal trod and was filled by (103) consisting of brown silty clay and contained a residual sherd 13th-century imported Saintonge pottery.
- 12.6 Zone 2 – Test pits 2-5** (Fig. 14)
The transect of four 1m by 1m test pits were hand dug in the area to the southwest of the spring. All were dug to a depth of approximately 1m. Only TP5 reached the natural subsoil (504), or possibly a natural subsoil interface layer, which consisted of mixed white, grey and yellow clay with shillet fragments.
- 12.7 Test pit 2**
TP 2 did not expose natural deposits, and below the topsoil (200) of dark greyish brown clayey loam were seven deposits of made ground (201-7); these are described in the table below:

Context no.	Description	Thickness
200	Dark greyish brown clayey loam	0.11m
201	Light brownish grey silty clay, with very frequent shillet	0.15m
202	Light brownish yellow silty clay, with frequent shillet	0.15m
203	Light brownish grey silty clay, with very frequent shillet	0.11m

204	Light brownish yellow silty clay, with frequent shillet	0.28m
205	Grey silty clay, of possible alluvial origin	0.07m
206	Light brownish yellow silty clay, with frequent shillet	0.28m
207	Medium yellowish brown silty clay, with frequent shillet	0.33m

12.8 Test pit 3

TP 3 did not expose natural deposits, and below the topsoil (300) were six deposits of made ground (301-6) and two buried soils (307-8); these are described in the table below:

Context no.	Description	Thickness
300	Medium brown clayey silt, with occasional shillet fragments	0.40m
301	Light greyish brown silty clay, with very frequent shillet fragments	0.26m
302	Medium brownish grey silty clay, with very frequent shillet fragments and quartz	0.17m
303	Light yellowish brown silty clay	0.06m
304	Light reddish grey silty clay, with very frequent shillet fragments and quartz	0.19m
305	Medium brownish grey silty clay, with very frequent shillet fragments and quartz	0.16m
306	Light reddish grey silty clay, with very frequent shillet fragments and quartz	0.14m
307	Light yellowish brown silty clay, with occasional shillet fragments and moderate charcoal flecks	0.20m
308	Medium brownish yellow silty clay, with occasional shillet fragments	0.32m+

12.9 Test pit 4

TP 4 did not expose natural deposits, and below the topsoil (400) was a leached subsoil (401) and colluvial deposit (402); these are described in the table below:

Context no.	Description	Thickness
400	Medium yellowish brown silty clay, with very frequent shillet fragments	0.49m
401	Medium grey clay, with very frequent shillet fragments and quartz	0.23m
402	Medium brownish and light red silty clay, with frequent shillet fragments and sub-angular stone	0.32m

12.10 Test pit 5

TP5 probably exposed the top of the natural deposits, and below the topsoil (500) were four deposits, a leached subsoil (501), a subsoil (502), a colluvial layer (503) and a probable natural interface layer (504); these are described in the table below:

Context no.	Description	Thickness
500	Light greyish brown silty clay, with occasional shillet fragments and occasional sub-angular stones and occasional quartz	0.19m
501	Light greyish brown silty clay, with occasional shillet	0.32m

	fragments and occasional sub-angular stones. It contained a rim sherd from an 18th- or 19th-century industrial whiteware plate.	
502	Light grey silty clay, with common shillet fragments	0.39m
503	Red silty clay, with occasional shillet fragments	0.25m
504	Light grey clay, with very frequent shillet fragments	0.09m+

12.11 Discussion - excavation

The excavation trench to the rear of the NE wall revealed a sequence of bank deposits confirming the expectation that the bank survives to a width of over 6m in this area. The bank deposits are dissimilar to the minimal description provided by Jope and Threlfall (1942) in that they cannot be described as being formed of 'piled shillet', but contain a great deal more soil and must derive from former topsoil or subsoil deposits. It is not clear exactly where Jope and Threlfall's section was placed, but it appears to have been against the back of part of the standing NE wall, and it perhaps indicates that they exposed higher bank deposits that were lost from the current section. The piled shillet that they saw is perhaps related to a refurbishment contemporary with the digging of the large rock cut ditch from which the higher bank material could have been derived. This would also account for the fact that they exposed well-made facing stones on the rear of the wall, indicating that the wall had been constructed without the expectation of a rear bank, and certainly was not added to the front of an existing earthwork. This correlates with the current observations of a mortared faced to the exposed masonry on this side of the wall (see Fig. 10b).

12.12 Discussion - test pits

The transect of test pits revealed a sequence of deposits which confirmed that archaeologically significant material is located in the terrace adjacent to the spring. These deposits (in TPs 2 and 3) comprise made ground to a depth of at least 1m, and clearly represent infilling behind the present course of the Ayleston Brook.

No dating evidence was forthcoming, but the location of these deposits directly above the steep drop to Ayleston Brook, could be interpreted as the remnants of a former bank, perhaps contemporary with the construction of the NW wall which brings the spring within the bounds of the site. The transect also showed that these deposits are located only in the level area of the terrace (over a width of approximately 10m) and that the steep hill slope (the location of TPs 4 and 5) is made up of overlying subsoil and colluvial deposits of less archaeological interest. On the basis of the current evidence the archaeological activity in this area is functional in nature rather than ritualistic.

13 ARCHIVE

13.1 An integrated site archive has been compiled and is currently stored at the Devon office of AC archaeology, 4 Halthaies workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon EX5 4LQ. The digital archive (to include digitised site records) will be deposited with the ADS within three months of the distribution of the final report.

13.2 An OASIS entry, including a copy of the report, will be completed.

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The works were commissioned by David Evans of Oldaport Farm. The survey was managed by Andrew Passmore with advice from Caroline Vulliamy and Nick Russell

(both of EH) and carried out by Chris Caine, Stella De-Villiers, Alex Farnell, Naomi Kysh and Paul Rainbird. The report illustrations were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore.

15. SOURCES CONSULTED

Printed sources

- Baker, J. and Brookes, S. 2013, *Beyond the Burghal Hidage: Anglo-Saxon Civil Defence in the Viking Age*. Leiden.
- Bekkerlegge, J.J. 1938, Report on field visits, *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* **70**, 155-156.
- Cottrill, F. 1935, 'The fort of Oldaport', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Exploration Society* **2**, 213-215.
- Donn, B. 1765, *A Map of the County of Devon, with the City & County of Exeter*.
- Farley, M. and Little, R. 1968, 'Oldaport, Modbury: A re-assessment of the fort and harbour', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **26**, 31-36.
- Finberg, H.P.R. 1969, *West-Country Historical Studies*. Newton Abbot.
- Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M. 1932, *The Place-Names of Devon, Part II*. Cambridge.
- Haslam, J. 2011, 'Daws Castle, Somerset, and Civil Defence Measures in Southern and Midland England in the Ninth to Eleventh Centuries', *Archaeological Journal* **168**, 195-226.
- Hooke D. 1994, *Pre-Conquest Charter Bounds of Devon and Cornwall*. Woodbridge.
- Jope, E.M. and Threlfall, R.I. 1942, 'The fort at Oldaport, near Modbury, South Devon', *Antiquaries Journal* **22**, 65-67.
- King, R.J. 1875, 'President's address', *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* **7**, 25-49.
- Lysons, D. 1822, *Topographical and Historical Account of Devonshire*.
- Page, Lloyd Warden J. 1893, *The Rivers of Devon from the Source to the Sea*. London.
- Petter, H.M. 1985, 'A Charter of King Aethelwulf', *Devon Historian* **30**, 21-4.
- Rainbird, P. 1998, 'Oldaport and the Anglo-Saxon defence of Devon', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **56**, 153-164.
- Rainbird, P. and Druce, D. 2004, 'A Late Saxon date from Oldaport', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **62**, 177-180.
- Risdon, T. 1970, *Survey of Devon, New Edition*. Barnstaple.
- Slater, T.R. 1991, 'Controlling the South Hams: the Anglo-Saxon Burh at Halwell', *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* **123**, 79-103.
- Thomas, C. 1976, 'The end of the Roman South-West' in Branigan, K. and Fowler, P. (eds) *The Roman West Country*. Newton Abbot.
- Thorn, C. and Thorn, F. 1985, *Domesday Book: Devon*. Chichester.
- Todd, M. 1987, *The South-West to AD1000*. London.
- Vulliamy C., 2013, *Specifications for Survey and Consolidation Work* (English Heritage)
- Webster, C. (ed.) 2008, *The Archaeology of Southwest England*. Taunton.

Unpublished sources

- Dryden, Sir H. 1863, *Journal*. Unpublished MS, Northampton Library.
- Passmore, A. 2014, *Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon, (NGR SX 63515 49445), Higher Level Stewardship Scheme: Project Design for Archaeological Investigations, Scheduled Monument: Iron Age promontory fort known as Oldaport Camp (National Heritage list no. 1020234)*, AC archaeology document no. **ACD879/2/0**

Websites

British Geological Survey website

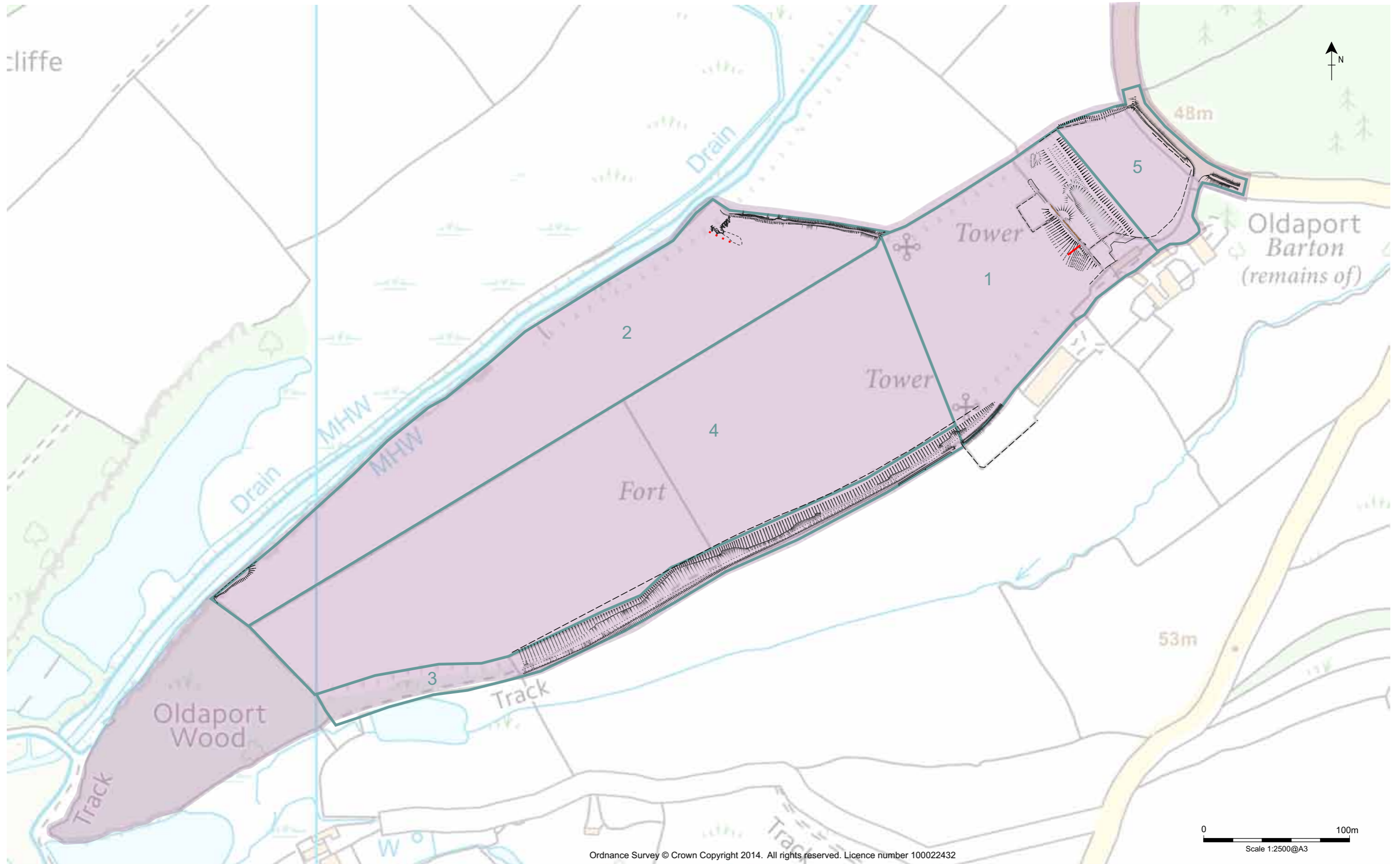
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>



0 2km
Scale 1:40,000@A4

PROJECT
Oldport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site



Legend

- Scheduled Monument
- Trench 1
- Test pits 2-5
- Management Zones

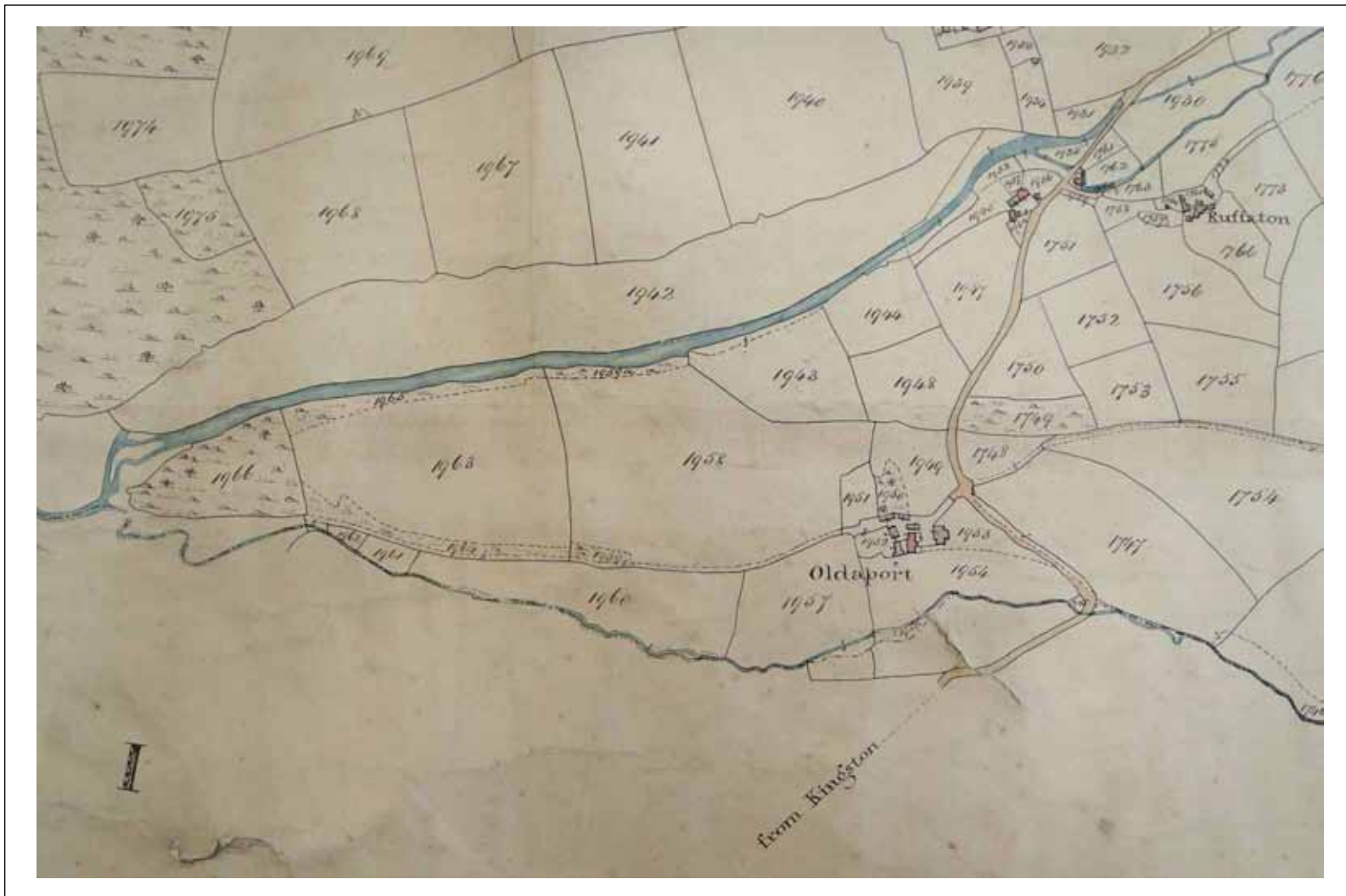
PROJECT

Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon



TITLE

Fig. 2: Area of the Scheduled Monument and management zones within the HLS holding



PROJECT

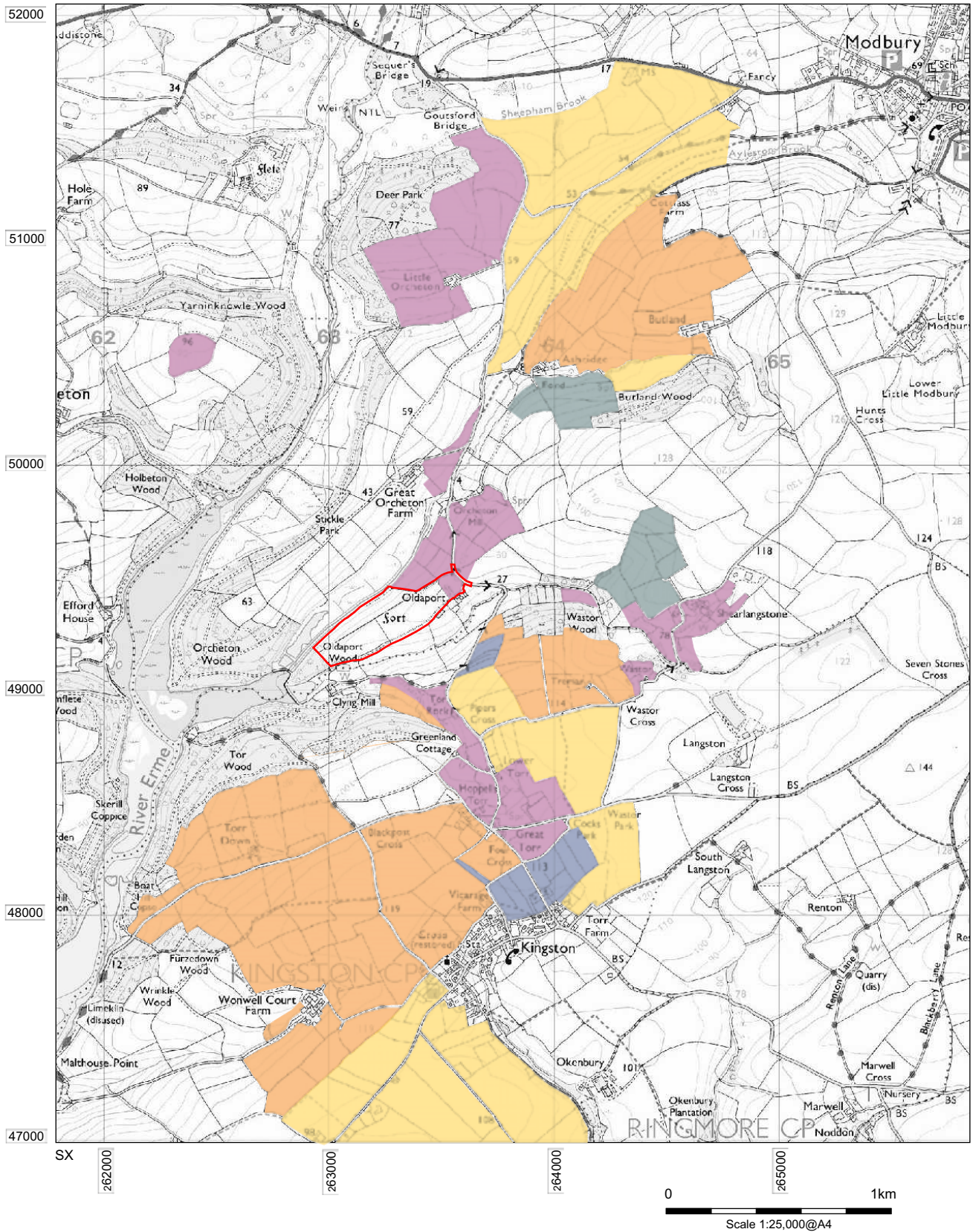
Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 3: Extract from the Modbury
tithe map, 1841



AC archaeology



Legend

- Site boundary
- Medieval strip field enclosures
- Medieval enclosures
- Medieval enclosures based on strip fields
- Post-medieval enclosures with medieval elements
- Modern enclosures adopting medieval fields
- Post-medieval and modern enclosures

PROJECT

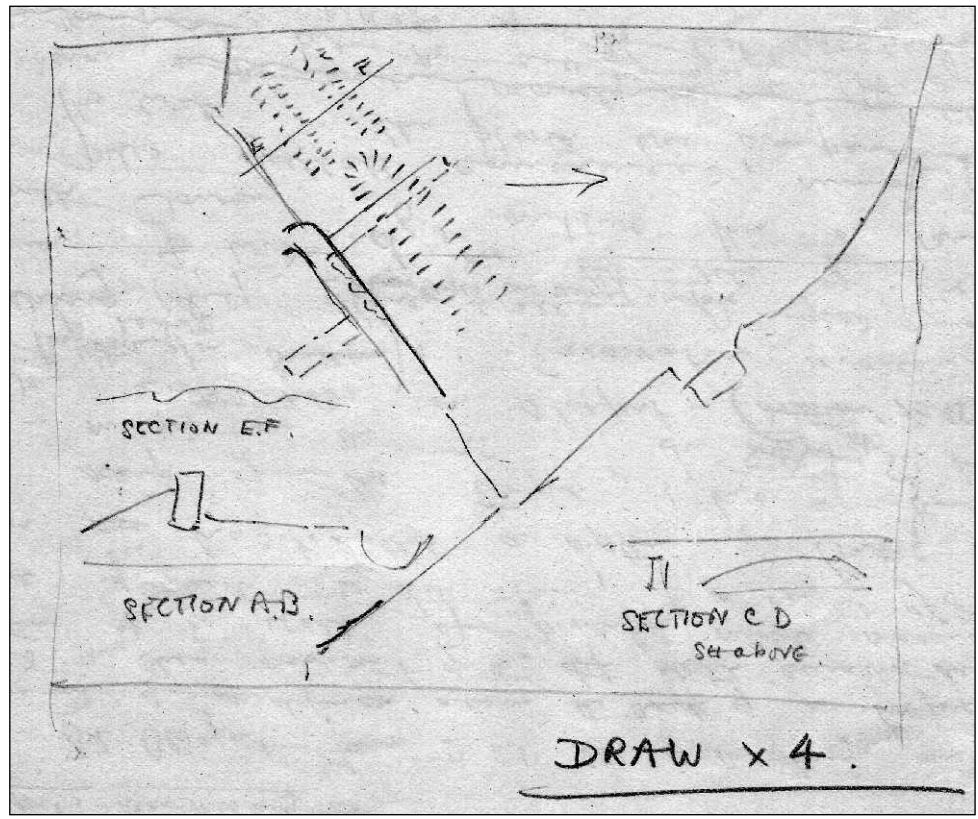
Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 4: Historic Landscape Characterisation



AC archaeology



PROJECT
Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon
TITLE
Fig. 5: Extract from the Jope
Archive map

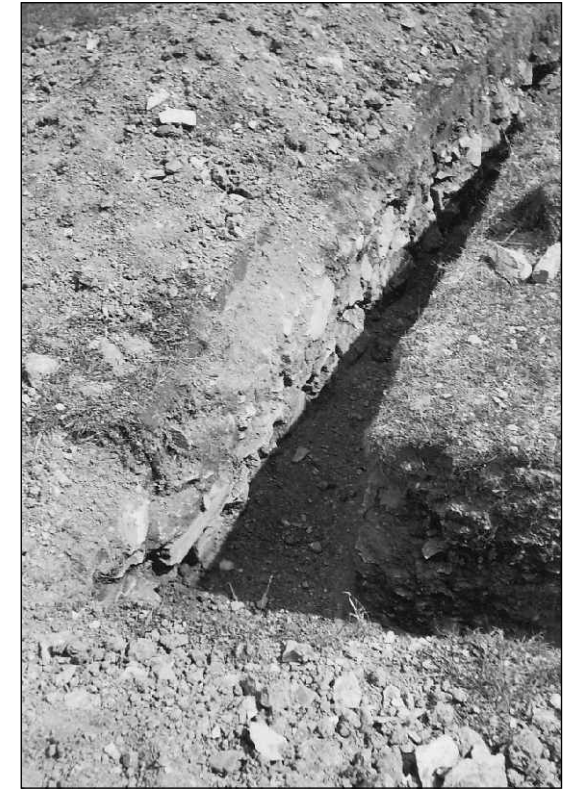




General view



End of south tower



South tower



Outer part of main wall

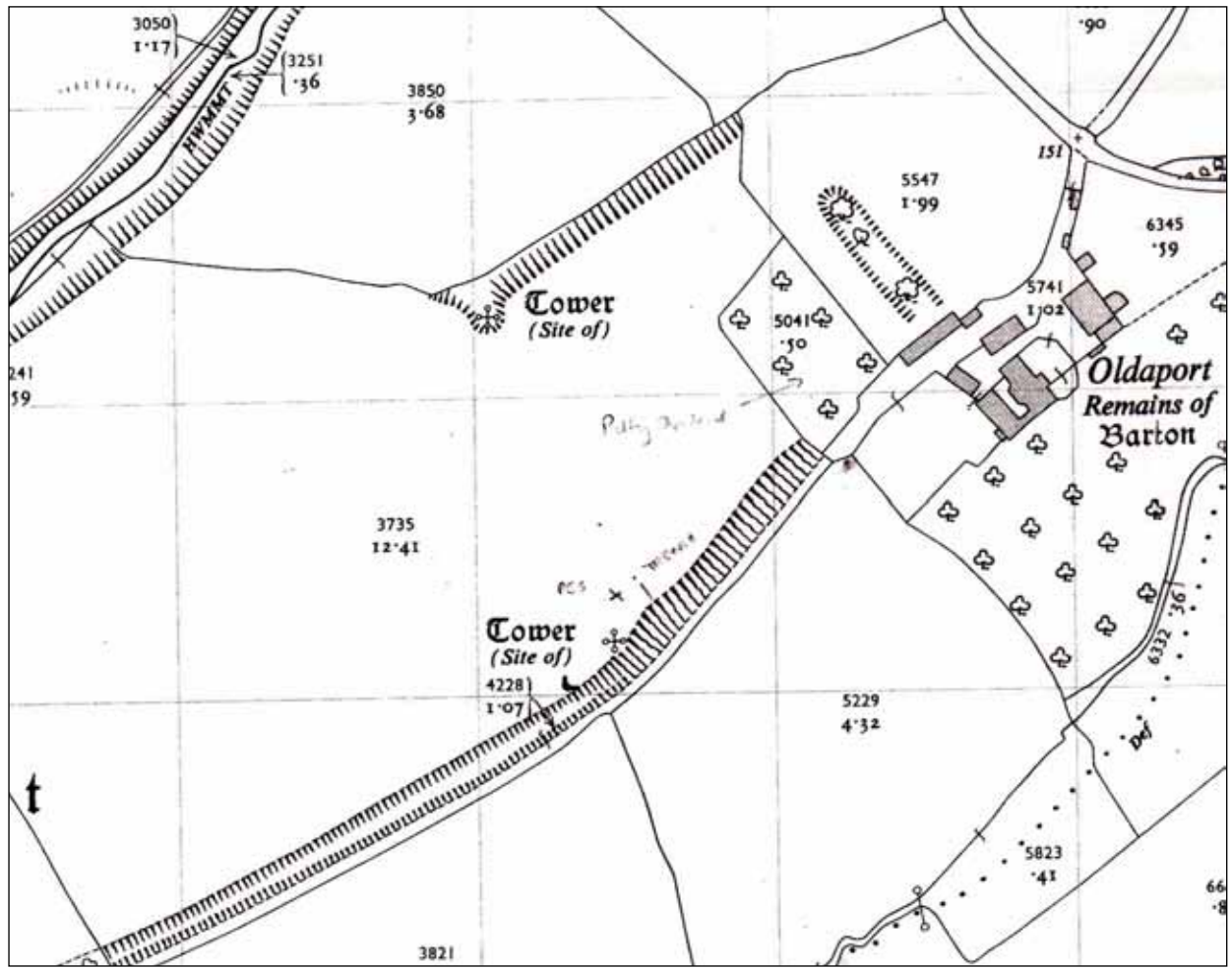
PROJECT

Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 6: Photographs from Jope and Threfall's 1938 investigations

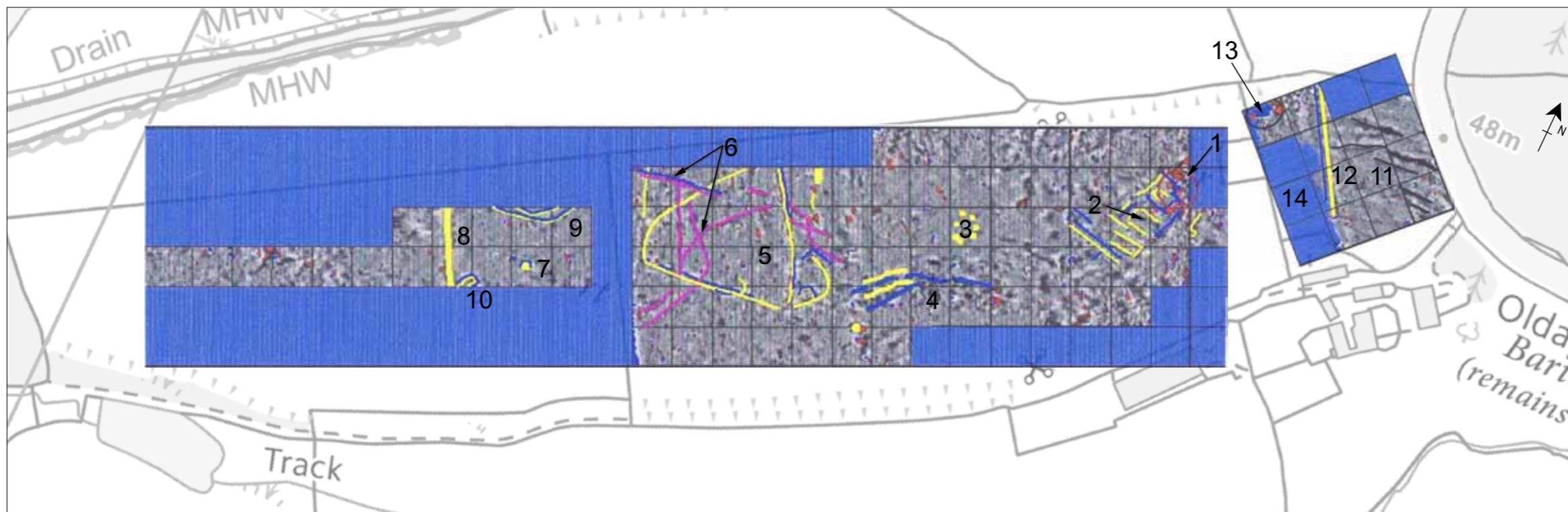
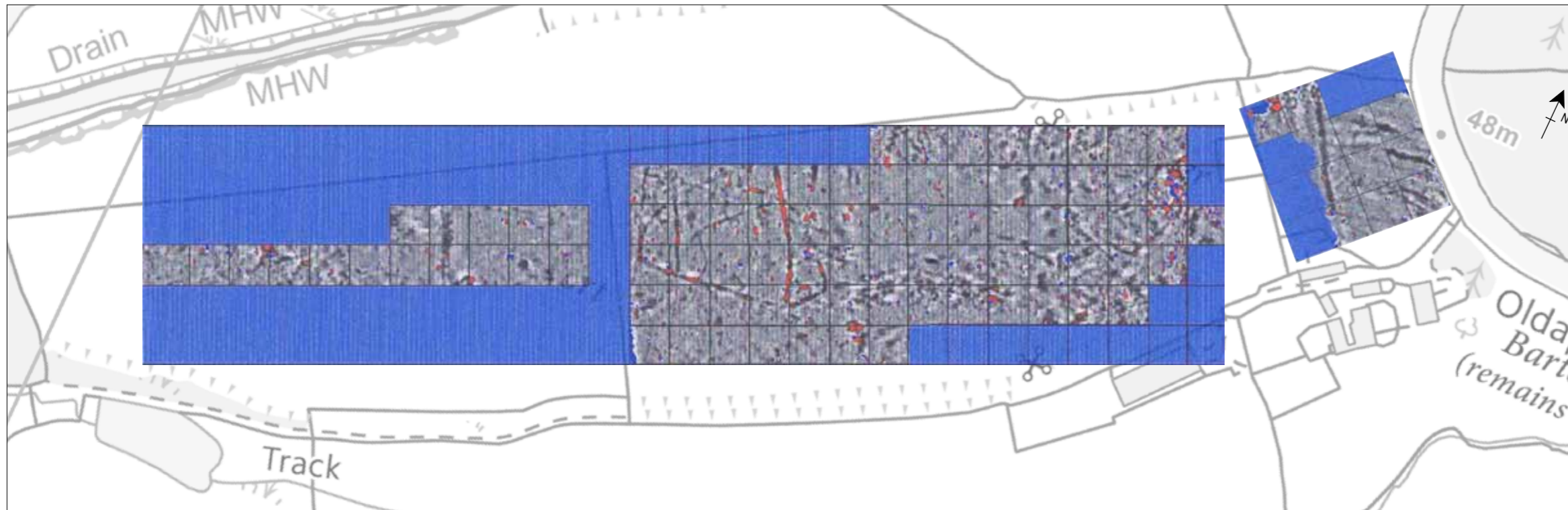




PROJECT
Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 7: Extract from the Farley trench location map



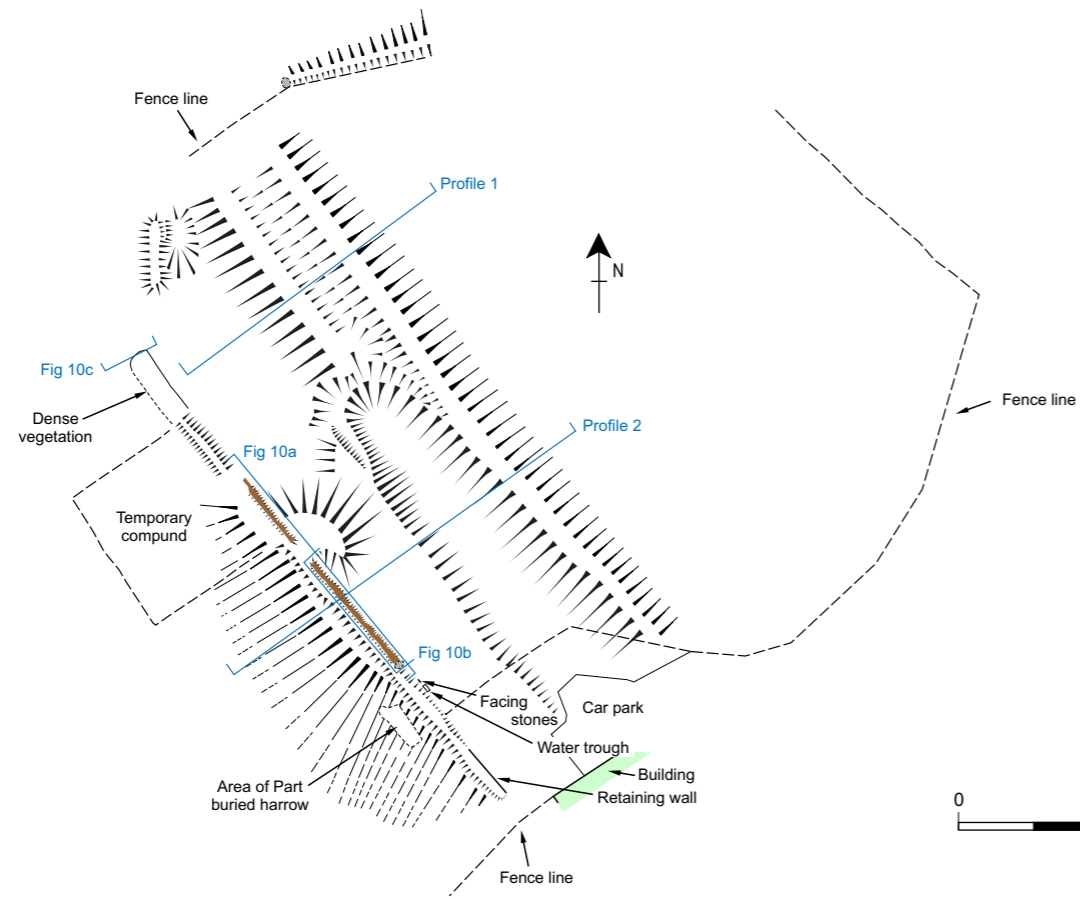


Legend

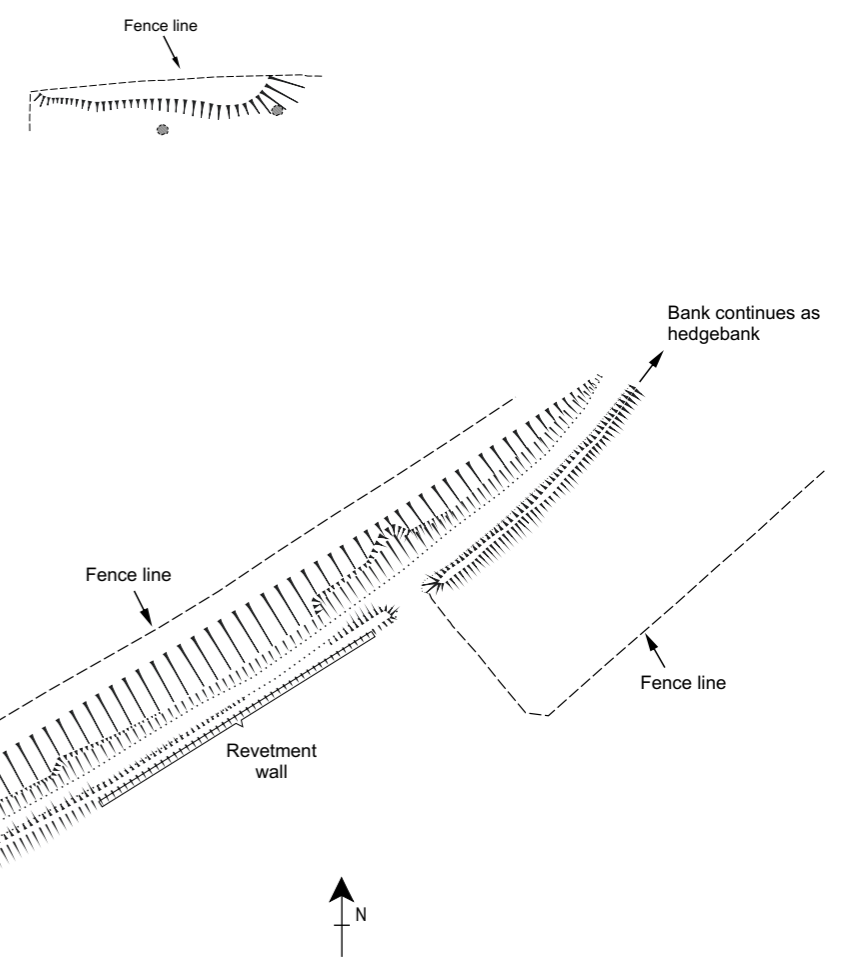
- Blue squares non surveyed areas
- 1: Area of scattered positive readings (15-20+) suggestive of surface burning
- 2: Area of weak positive and negative linear readings
- 3: 15m of circle of positive readings
- 4: Possible linear features
- 5: D-shaped feature (60m x 80m) with annexe (15m x 25m). Possibly with ditch and stone wall
- 6: Smaller linear features
- 7: Circular feature with possible stone outer rim
- 8: Possible relic hedge bank
- 9: Very weak reading of double ditch and wall
- 10: Possible stone rectangular feature
- 11: Possible underlying geology
- 12: Ditch (yellow) & Bank (blue)
- 13: Modern metal interference
- 14: Area of large ditch feature

Fig. 8: Results of the magnetometry geophysical survey by Exeter University, 2007

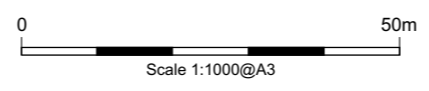
a) Zone 1



b) West end of Zone 2



● = Tree stumps
 ■ = Top of wall



c) Zone 3

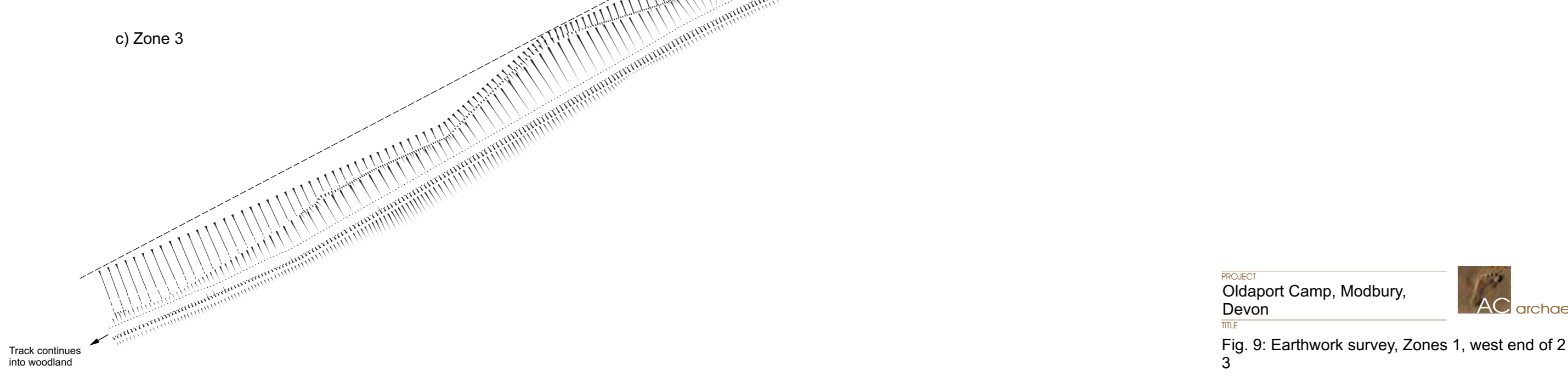
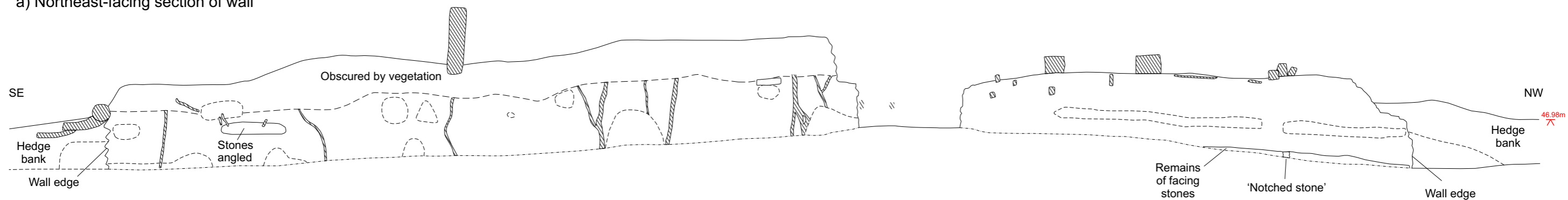







Fig. 9: Earthwork survey, Zones 1, west end of 2 and 3

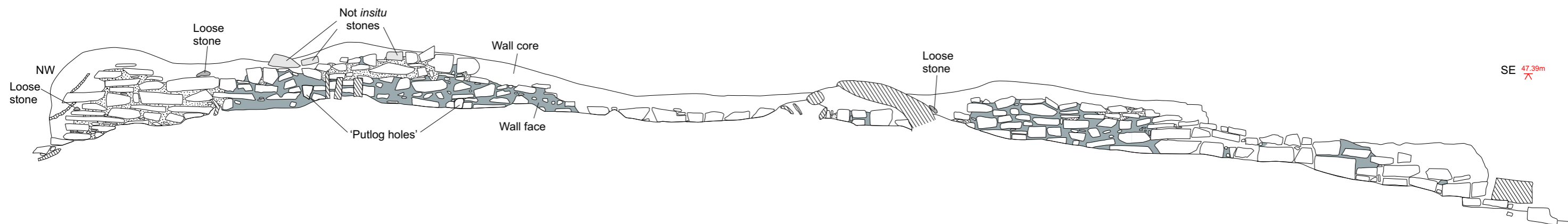
a) Northeast-facing section of wall



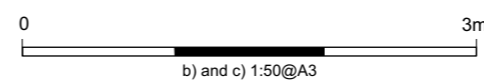
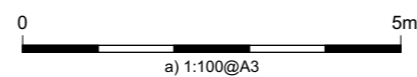
Key

-  Stones
-  Mortared wall face
-  Recessed mortar
-  Tree stumps/roots
-  Areas of undercutting

b) Southwest-facing section of wall



c) Section of hedge bank (west end)



PROJECT

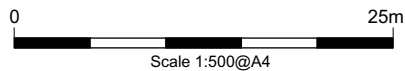
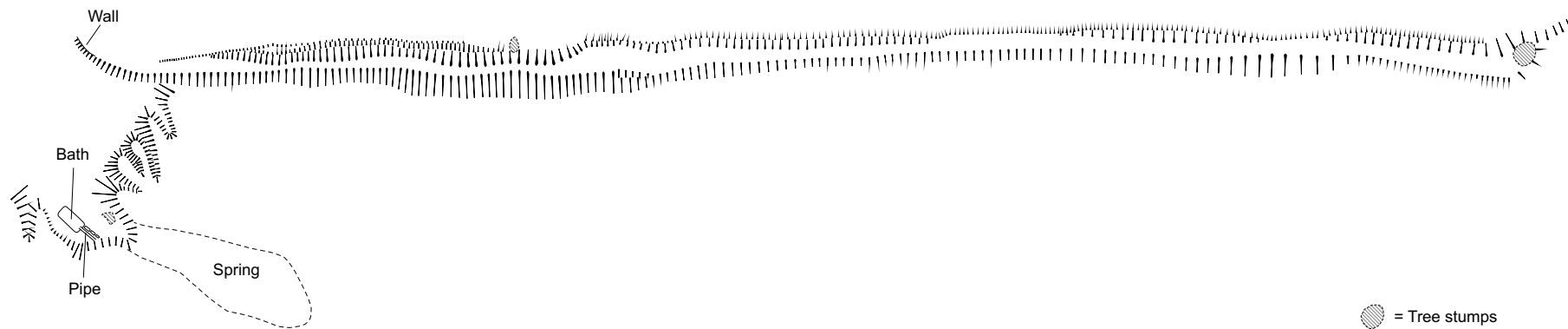
Oldport Camp, Modbury, Devon



TITLE

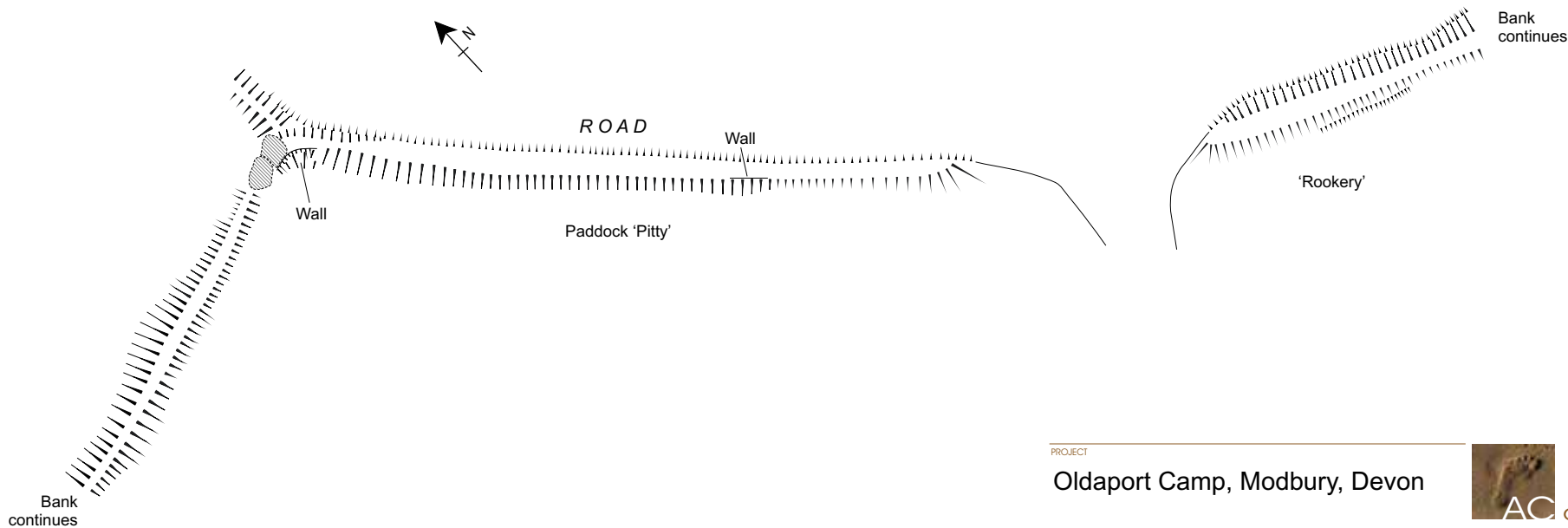
Fig. 10: Zone 1, elevations and sections of the northeast wall

a) Zone 2



☉ = Tree stumps

b) Zone 5



PROJECT

Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon



AC archaeology

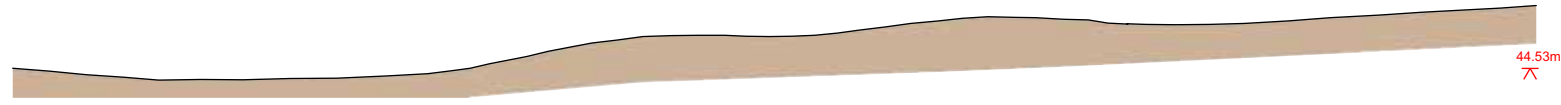
TITLE

Fig. 11: Earthwork survey, Zones 2 and 5

Profile 1

SW

NE

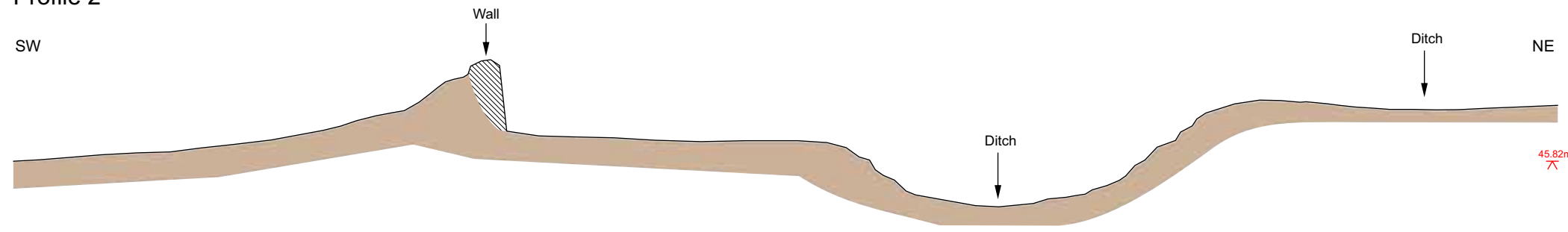


44.53m
∧

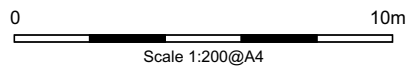
Profile 2

SW

NE



45.82m
∧



PROJECT

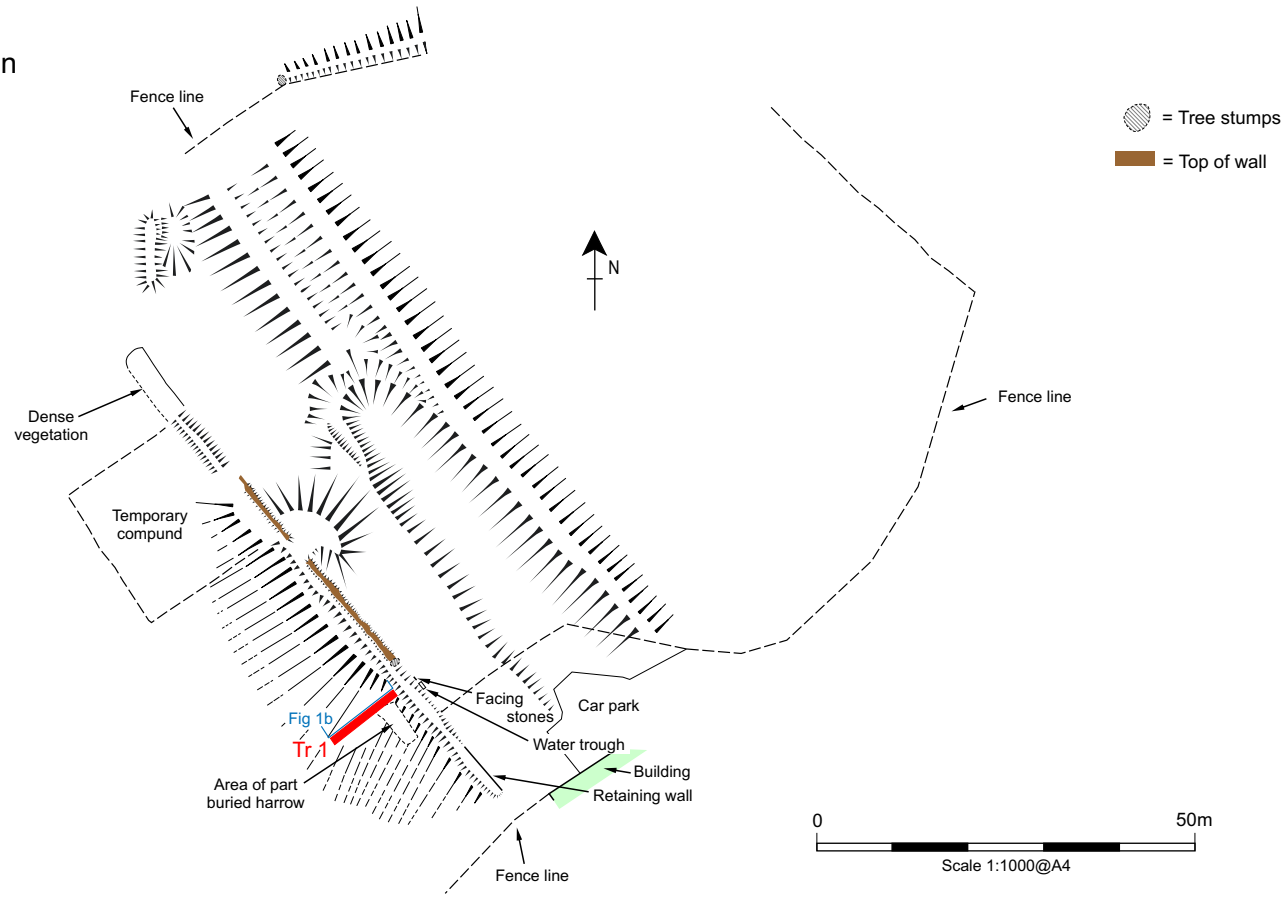
Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE

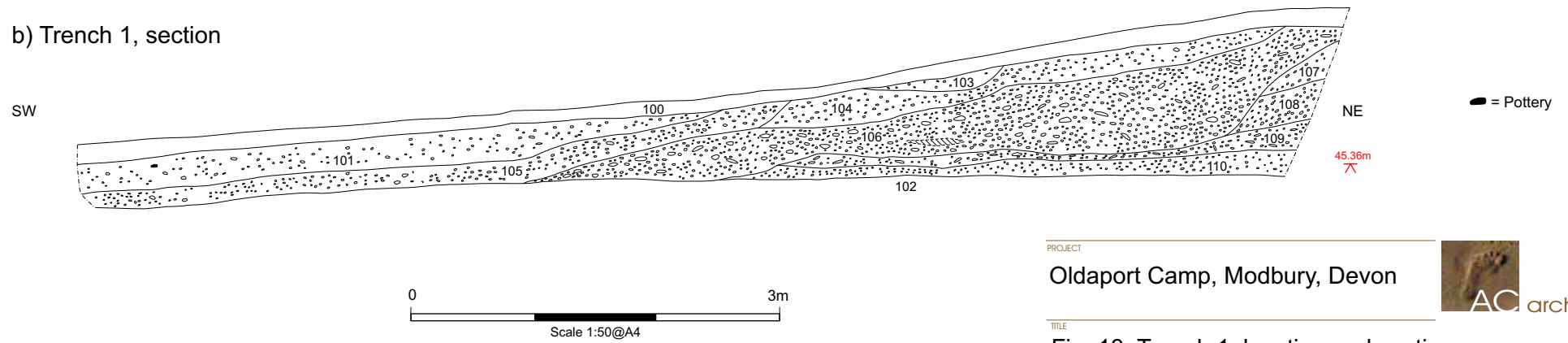
Fig. 12: Profiles 1 and 2



a) Zone 1, plan



b) Trench 1, section

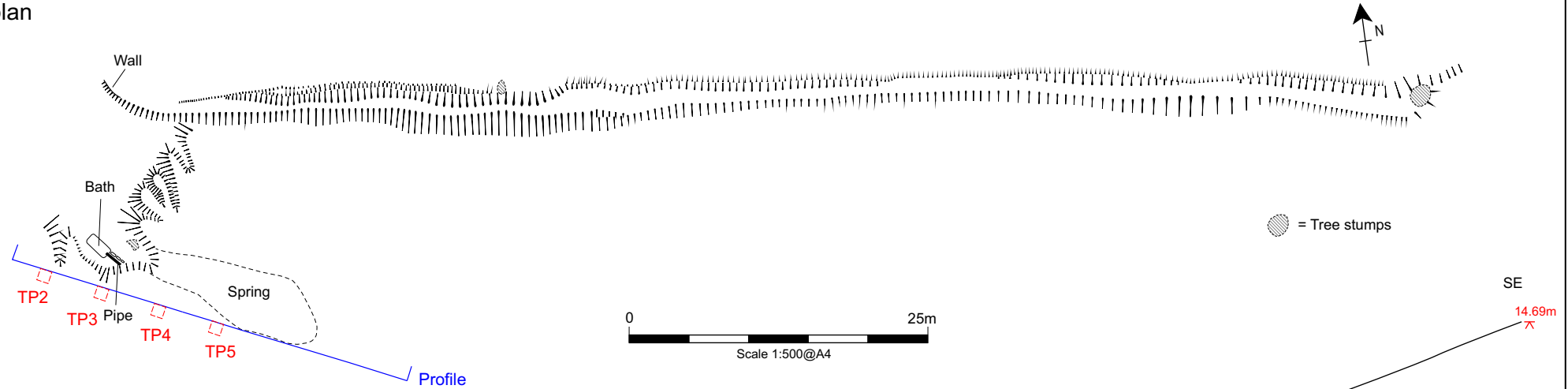


PROJECT
 Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

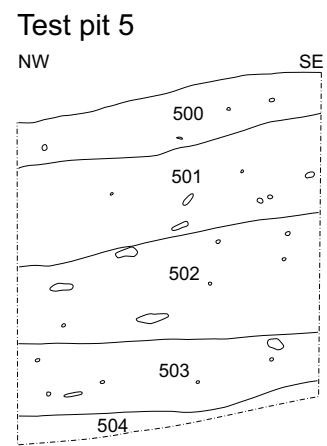
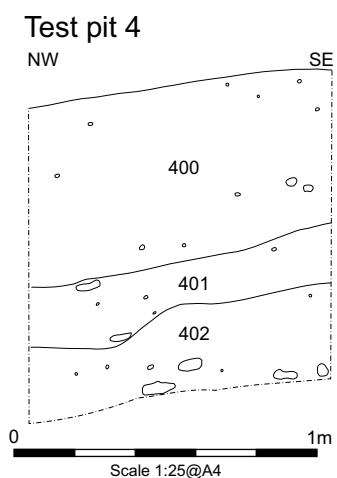
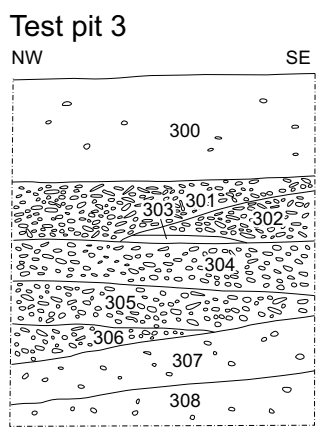
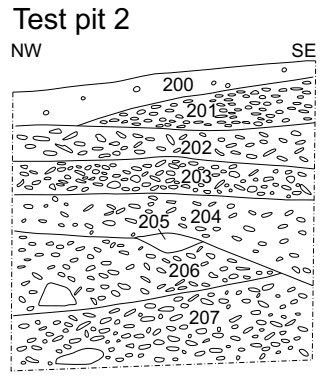
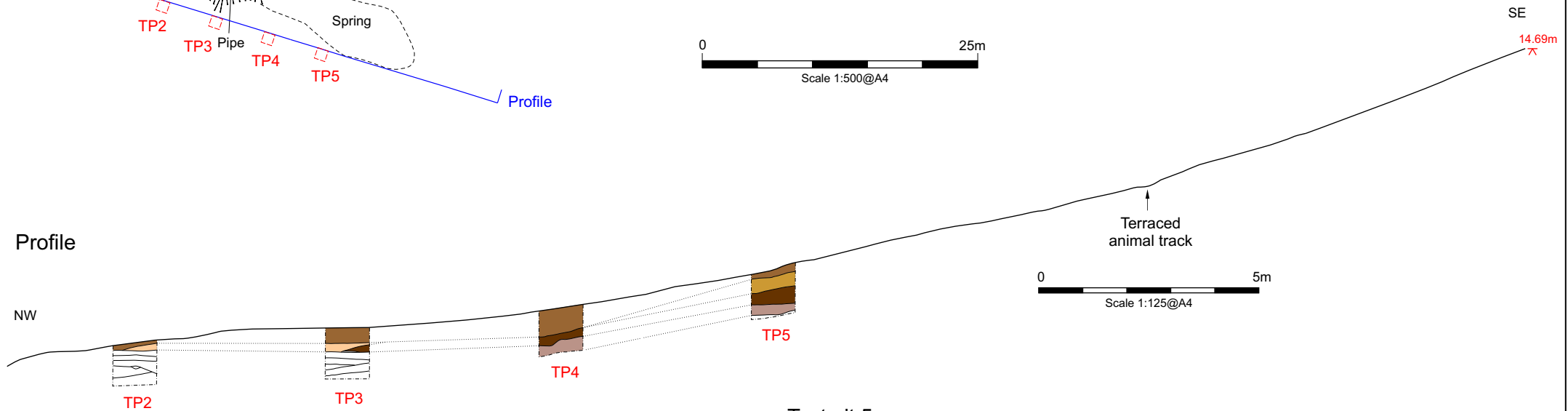


TITLE
 Fig. 13: Trench 1, location and section

Zone 2, plan



Profile



PROJECT
Oldaport Camp, Modbury, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 14: Test pit locations, profile and sections





Plate 1: Zone 1, northeast wall exterior, south end, viewed from the east. 2m scale.



Plate 2: Zone 1, northeast wall exterior, north end, viewed from the southeast. 2m scale.



Plate 3: Zone 1, northeast wall and bank interior, viewed from the west. 1m scale.



Plate 4: Zone 1, northeast wall interior, showing possible putlog hole and render, viewed from the west. 0.5m scale.



Plate 5: Zone 1, northeast wall and earthworks exterior, viewed from the east.



Plate 6: Zone 1, view of ditch



Plate 7: Zone 2, view of northwest angle wall



Plate 8: Zone 2, the spring, viewed from the southeast. 1m and 1m scales.



Plate 9: Zone 2, north slope and terrace



Plate 10: Zone 3, northeast end of green lane, viewed from the southwest. 1m and 1m scales.



Plate 11: Zone 3, southwest end of green lane, viewed from the northeast. 1m and 1m scales.



Plate 12: Zone 3, erosion below site of South Tower, viewed from the south. 1m scale.



Plate 13: Zone 3, view of hedgebank erosion.



Plate 14: Zone 3, view of wooded slope.



Plate 15: Zone 4, view along the spur, from the east



Plate 16: Zone 4, view towards Brent Hill



Plate 17: Zone 5, the Pitty field eastern hedgebank, viewed from the southwest



Plate 18: Zone 5, the Pitty field eastern hedgebank, telegraph pole, viewed from the west.



Plate 19: Zone 5, the Rookery hedgebank, viewed from the south. 1m scale.



Plate 20: Zone 5, the metalled lane, viewed from the south. 1m scale.



Plate 21: Zone 1, general view of excavation Trench 1, viewed from the south. 1m scale



Plate 22: Zone 1, oblique view of southeast-facing section of the excavation Trench 1. 1m scale



Plate 23: Zone 2, general view of test pit transect, viewed from the southwest. 1m scale



Plate 24: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 2. 1m scale



Plate 25: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 3. 1m scale



Plate 26: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 4. 1m scale



Plate 27: Zone 2, southwest-facing section of TP 5. 1m scale

Appendix 1

Table of events

Date	Description	Comment	Reference
846	King Aethelwulf's charter	All sources agree that Merecumbe is the valley on the south of Oldaport. There is no mention of Oldaport.	Finberg (1969), Petter (1985), Hooke (1994)
c. 1630	Reference to Oldaport dated c. 1250, 'an old fort that standeth upon the river of Erme'	Earliest published source	Daniel Risdon's <i>Survey of Devon</i>
1841	The tenant (Richard Pearce) showed the site of the ancient house, which is indicated by a considerable moat and mounds of earth. He told of having seen the foundations of a large gateway. This was presumably the entry for a park for preserving deer, with a second function to protect from hostile aggression.	Indicates that R. Pearce's excavations are prior to this date?	MS by Dr Woolcombe in the possession of RH Worth. TDA LXX, 156
1846	Very brief description of lately discovered powerful masonry in orchard and plantation. The bases of two towers and the site of gateway are traceable. Believes the whole spur is encompassed by the fort ('15 acres'). Suggests it is the lost Roman station of 'Armina'. A curiously shaped trowel, possibly resembling a massy spearhead has been found. Author is W.T.P.S.	The uncovering of the walls by R. Pearce appears to be recent in this note.	Gentleman's Magazine XXVI, 517-8
1863	Describes NE wall and provides a sketch plan of two gates (and two postern gates) and the base of the S tower. He says that both gates were 9' wide and originally arched. The postern gates were built of limestone brought from some other place. Notes that he saw blocks of red sandstone in the farmhouse.	The sketch plans are based on information 'given me on the ground by the occupier.'	Unpub. journal of Sir Henry Dryden in Northampton Library
1872	The remains of large walled camp or fortification, enclosing nearly 30 acres. They consist of the foundations of 2 round towers and of walls 5' thick, with two entrances 9' wide. Near one of the entrances is a well of pure water, in which a spearhead, pronounced Roman was found.	First to say that the spearhead came from the well.	John Murray A Handbook for Travellers – Devon and Cornwall, 245
1875	A walled fortification of 30 acres. The plan which is quadrangular shows the foundations of two	Doesn't appear to have visited the site. Is very close to John	TDA VII, 32-33

	<p>round towers and the walls five feet in thickness, with two entrances about 9' wide. Near one of these is a well of very pure water, in which some few years since a spearhead was found, and was pronounced Roman by the very competent authority of Mr Franks.</p> <p>By R.J. King</p>	<p>Murray's 1872 description with embellishment.</p>	
1893	<p>The camp was quadrangular and embraced an area of 29 acres. There are only fragments of the east and west ends. That on the east certainly appeared to be of Roman workmanship. The wall now forms part of the orchard fence. The farmer (Richard Pearse) told me that in his father's time it was in a much better state of preservation and that there were entrances on each side, one surmounted by a rude arch of a 'sort of red sandstone', building operations were responsible for its destruction.</p> <p>By John Lloyd Warden Page</p>	<p>First to mention a recently standing red sandstone arch at an entrance.</p>	<p><i>The Rivers of Devon from the Source to the Sea</i>, 162</p>
1936	<p>Brief description of the NE wall and ditch (Zone 1) with map from OS.</p> <p>By F. Cottrill</p>	<p>The site appears to be in the condition found today</p>	<p>PDAES 1933-36</p>
1938	<p>Report of visit by the Devonshire Association – RH Worth thinks that this was the site of a walled manor such as that at Stonehouse on Plymouth Sound and would not be earlier than the Norman period.</p> <p>By J.J. Beckerlegge</p>		<p>TDA LXX, 155-6</p>
1938	<p>A trial excavation of the NE ditch and bank and over the site of the south tower. A shillet bank on the line of the defences in the area of the supposed south tower was seen. Concluded that the site was of Late Roman or Dark Age origin.</p>	<p>South tower not found, but the wall of a modern building, with rendered inner wall (35' long) along and inside the line of the defences.</p>	<p>Jope and Threlfall (1942); Jope archive</p>
1946	<p>An RAF vertical photograph shows the shadow marks of a possible off-set gateway in the area of the supposed 'south tower'.</p>		<p>RAF 3088. CPE/UK/1890 (Dec 1946), Farley & Little (1968, plate VII)</p>
1968 (March)	<p>A single excavation over the southwest earthworks revealed the remains of a mortared slumped wall. A sherd of very worn 'samian' from the topsoil. Considered site to be of 2 phases: a small rectangular</p>	<p>First to propose 2 phases of occupation and to find fragments of masonry walls around the whole</p>	<p>Farley and Little (1968); Farley correspondence</p>

	enclosure of possible Roman date at the head of the spur followed by the enclosure of the whole spur behind the mortared wall, for which a Roman, Dark Age or Early Medieval date could not be ruled out.	spur.	
1976	Charles Thomas suggests that Oldaport, along with Tintagel and Glastonbury was the site of an early Christian monastery.	No evidence that he visited the site.	Thomas (1976)
1987	Malcolm Todd accepts that 2 phases exist, but places them both in the Roman period. He uses the estate settlement of Gatcombe, Somerset as an analogy for Phase 2.	No new fieldwork.	Todd (1987)
1989	A series of aerial photographs by Frances Griffith show linear features and a possible enclosure central to the spur within the site.		Rainbird (1998)
1990	Geophysical and topographical survey. Agrees with 2 phases, with the first a R-B farmstead and the second a late Saxon burh.	No excavation.	Rainbird (1998)
1999	R. Waterhouse proposed that the hedgebank and lane to the northeast of the northeast defences were a further set of outworks for the fort. The scheduled area was extended to include these and is interpreted as an IA fort.	Based on field visit.	SM listing information
2004	A single C14 date was obtained from hazel charcoal extracted from mortar associated with the phase 2 wall. Calibrated date of AD873-1020.	Supports a late Saxon date for the wall.	Rainbird (2004)
2007	Extensive geophysical survey (magnetometry and some resistivity) was undertaken. Several features of potential archaeological interest were observed.	Fieldwork	Exeter University-unpublished
2008	SWARF notes that Oldaport is like Totnes in not being listed in the <i>Burghal Hidage</i> . Rainbird's 2004 date is recalibrated as AD810-1030.	Phase 2 becomes generally accepted as Late Saxon in date.	Chris Webster ed. (2008)
2011	Suggests that Phase 1 is a Saxon-period lookout or meeting place prior to formal Saxon fortification in Phase 2	Phase 1 also proposed as Saxon, rather than Iron Age or Romano-British. Late Saxon Phase 2	Jeremy Haslam (2011)

		compared with Daws Castle, Somerset	
2013	Oldaport is compared with Cadbury, Avebury and Cricklade as Late Saxon burh sites.	Further acceptance of a Saxon date for Phase 2	Baker and Brookes (2013)

Devon Office

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

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk