

LAND AT GREENHILL ROAD, KINGSTEIGNTON

(Centred on NGR SX 874 728)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Teignbridge District Council Planning Reference
16/00477/MAJ

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On behalf of:
Baker Estates

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archaeology

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

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Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in advance of a residential development, on land at the former Kingsteignton Community Resource Centre, Greenhill Road, Kingsteignton, Devon (NGR SX 874 728).

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of seven trenches totaling 150m in length, with each trench 1.9m wide. These were positioned to provide a sampled coverage of the site.

The results from the trial trenching recorded only limited results, with a small number of ditches exposed. These were considered to have related to former agricultural boundaries or drains. No finds were recovered from the ditches, however they probably represented two phases; the latter of which corresponded with the line of a probable pathway shown on a 19th century map of the site. The earlier phase were thought to have related to a former arrangement of plot divisions. These were overlain by a colluvial subsoil from which later Iron Age pottery was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation forming part of a programme of archaeological work was undertaken ahead of the construction of 33 dwellings plus two custom build plots for two detached dwellings in outline, together with associated access and infrastructure on land at the former Kingsteignton Community Resource Centre, Greenhill Road, Kingsteignton, Devon (NGR SX 874 728). The work was required as a condition (18) of planning consent by Teignbridge District Council, following consultation with the Archaeology Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET).
- 1.2 The site covered an area of approximately 0.35 hectares and was located immediately to the east of the former village of Kingsteignton (Fig. 1). It was surrounded by modern housing and was occupied by a redundant community centre building and hardstanding in the western part, with grass and vegetation to the east. It lay at around 18m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on ground that sloped gradually to the west. The underlying solid geology comprised sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site was located immediately east of the historic core of the former village of Kingsteignton. A defensive *burh* may have been sited here but no associated ditches or ramparts have been recorded as yet. This settlement is likely to have developed from the oval-shaped enclosure formed by Fore Street, Greenhill Road and Church Street, part of which was investigated archaeologically in 1985 at Berry Meadow (Weddell 1987). These investigations provided evidence of activity from the prehistoric period through to the medieval period. Radiocarbon dates suggested occupation here in the 7th to 9th centuries. It is also likely that a minster church was located in Kingsteignton, although there is no archaeological or architectural evidence at present.
- 2.2 Recent archaeological work immediately to the east of the site at Penns Mount (Smith and Pears 2016, Valentin and Farnell 2016, Farnell 2016 and Weddell and Pink 2016) had identified the buried remains of a former double-ditched square enclosure of Late Iron Age to Romano-British date.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The main aim of the trial trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results of the work presented in this report will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design, prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2016). It comprised the machine-excavation of seven trenches totaling 150m in length and with each trench 1.9m wide. These were positioned to provide a sampled coverage of available areas of the site away from the community centre, associated hardstanding and existing services (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 All trenches were located with a Leica Net rover GPS accurate to 1cm. The removal of ploughsoil within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed.
- 4.3 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

Archaeological features were present in Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7. Trenches 1, 2 and 5 were blank and are summarised in Appendix 1. The results from Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7 are discussed below. Natural subsoil across the site varied from light reddish-brown to light yellowish-brown sandy-clay, with common gravel inclusions. This was overlain by a mid reddish-brown to mid greyish-brown sandy-loam colluvial subsoil and a mid greyish-brown clayey-loam topsoil.

5.2 Trench 3 (Detailed plan Fig. 3a)

Trench 3 was excavated onto natural subsoil (context 302), which was exposed beneath subsoil (301) and topsoil (300) at a depth of 0.7m below existing levels. Two sherds of later Iron Age pottery were recovered from subsoil 301.

The trench contained a single northeast to southwest aligned ditch (303), which was sealed by the subsoil. It was not excavated as a likely continuation of this feature was also exposed in Trench 4 (F403) to the south. Ditch 303 measured 0.7m wide and was comprised of a dark brown clayey-loam. No finds were recovered from 303.

5.3 Trench 4 (Detailed plan Fig. 3b and sections Figs. 3c-d; Plate 2)

Natural subsoil (402) was exposed in Trench 4 at a depth of 0.5m below subsoil (401) and topsoil (400) layers. As described above, the trench contained a ditch (F403), which was likely to represent a continuation of ditch 303 exposed in Trench 3 to the north.

Ditch F403 measured 0.75m wide and 0.40m deep, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid brown silty-clay loam primary fill (404), which was overlain by a dark brown clayey-loam accumulation (405). No finds were recovered.

5.4 Trench 6

Trench 6 was excavated onto natural subsoil (602), which was present at a depth of 0.8m below colluvial subsoil (601) and topsoil (600). The trench contained a single northwest to southeast aligned probable ditch (F603) that was sealed by the subsoil.

Ditch F603 measured 0.58m wide and 0.32m deep with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a light reddish-brown sandy-loam primary fill (604), which was overlain by a light yellowish-brown sandy-clay loam accumulation (605). No finds were recovered from ditch F603.

5.5 Trench 7

Trench 7 measured 15m long and was excavated onto natural subsoil (702), which was present at a depth of 0.28m below subsoil (701) and topsoil (700). The trench contained a NNE to SSW aligned probable ditch (F703) that was cut through the subsoil.

Probable ditch F703 measured 2.64m wide and 0.95m deep, with moderately-steep sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch contained a mid greyish-brown silty-clay basal fill (704), which was overlain by a dumped deposit of flint cobbles and gravels in a dark brownish-grey silt-clay matrix (705). No finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS *by Naomi Payne*

- 6.1** All finds recovered on site during the evaluation were retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They were then quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage was scanned to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The finds, which were all from topsoil or subsoil contexts, are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of finds by context

Context	Context Description	Prehistoric Pottery		Post Medieval Pottery		Glass	
		No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)
300	Trench 3 topsoil			1	3	1	26
301	Trench 3 subsoil	2	7				
600	Trench 6 topsoil			2	3		
Total		2	7	3	6	1	26

6.2 Prehistoric pottery

Two conjoining body sherds (7g) of later Iron Age pottery were recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3. The fabric is a fully reduced black and reasonably hard. It is tempered with moderate rounded to sub-angular transparent and white quartz up to 1mm, and rare sub-angular grey chert up to 2mm.

6.3 Post-medieval pottery

Three sherds (6g) of industrially-produced pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 3 and 6. These sherds date from the 19th or early 20th century.

6.4 Glass

A single body sherd (26g) of green bottle glass was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 3. This dates from the 18th or 19th century.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The results of the trial trench evaluation have established the presence of a small number of probable ditches that were exposed in the southern portion of the site. Given the lack of finds recovered and the generally sterile deposits contained within them, these were unlikely to have been associated with nearby settlement activity, but rather perhaps related to former agricultural boundaries or drains.
- 7.2 The ditches have been recorded as either located beneath the subsoil (features 303, F403 and F603) or cut through the subsoil (F703). This suggests that they probably related to two distinct phases, with ditch F703 being more recent. Indeed, the alignment and position of ditch F703 broadly corresponds with a probable pathway or track that is depicted on the 1840 Kingsteignton parish tithe map; a feature that is shown as linking with the vicarage to the northeast. This feature may therefore have represented an associated drainage ditch, presumably infilled by the later 19th century as indicated by its absence from the 1885-7 First-Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map.
- 7.3 Based on the perpendicular alignments of ditches 303 and F403, which are likely to have represented parts of the same overall feature, with ditch F603, these perhaps represent parts of an associated boundary arrangement. Despite being undated, their alignments, which varied from the immediate field pattern as depicted on the 19th century parish tithe map, coupled with the, in places thick, overlying accumulation of colluvial subsoil, suggests that that they pre-dated the former medieval to post-medieval field pattern. The presence of later Iron Age pottery recovered from the subsoil in Trench 3 provides further, albeit limited, evidence for the background for Late Iron Age activity in the area. It is possible that these ditches could also relate to this period, but this was not conclusive.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The results from the trial trenching recorded limited results, with only a small number of ditches exposed. These are considered to have comprised former agricultural boundaries or drains. Although undated, they have been shown to have related to two probable phases; the later of which corresponded with the line of a probable pathway shown on a 19th century map of the site. The earlier phase has been attributed to an arrangement of possible plot divisions that predated the former medieval to post-medieval landscape. The late Iron Age pottery recovered from an overlying subsoil reflected the background late prehistoric activity in the area and may have provided a tentative but inconclusive date for this earlier activity.

9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 9.1 The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1506**. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and ultimately will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under temporary access number **RAMM 16/52**, but if they are unable to accept this, then it will be dealt with under their current accession policy.
- 9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **273807**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk

DRO, Kingsteignton parish tithe map 1840

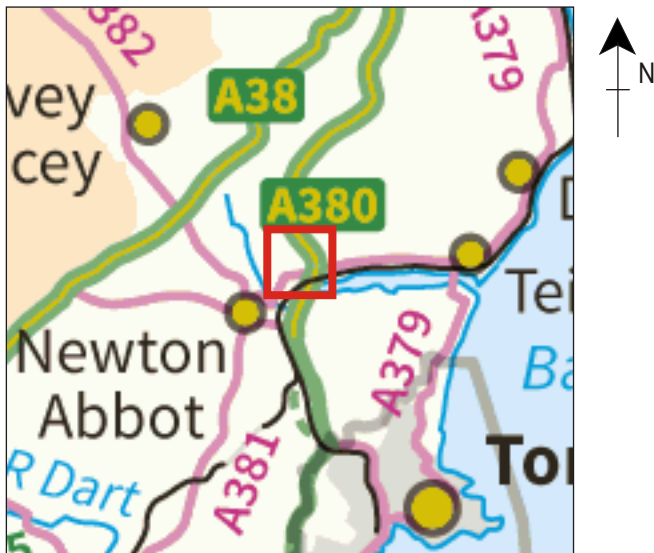
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Farnell, A. 2016: *Land East of Penns Mount, Vicarage Hill, Kingsteignton, Devon. Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology Report for client, ref. ACD1479/3/0.

Ordnance Survey 25-Inch Devonshire Map 59.12, surveyed 1885-7, published 1890

Smith, W. and Pears, B., 2016: *Land at Penns Mount, Kingsteignton, Devon: Results of a Programme of Archaeological Works*. Unpublished AC archaeology Report for client, ref. ACD907/2/0.

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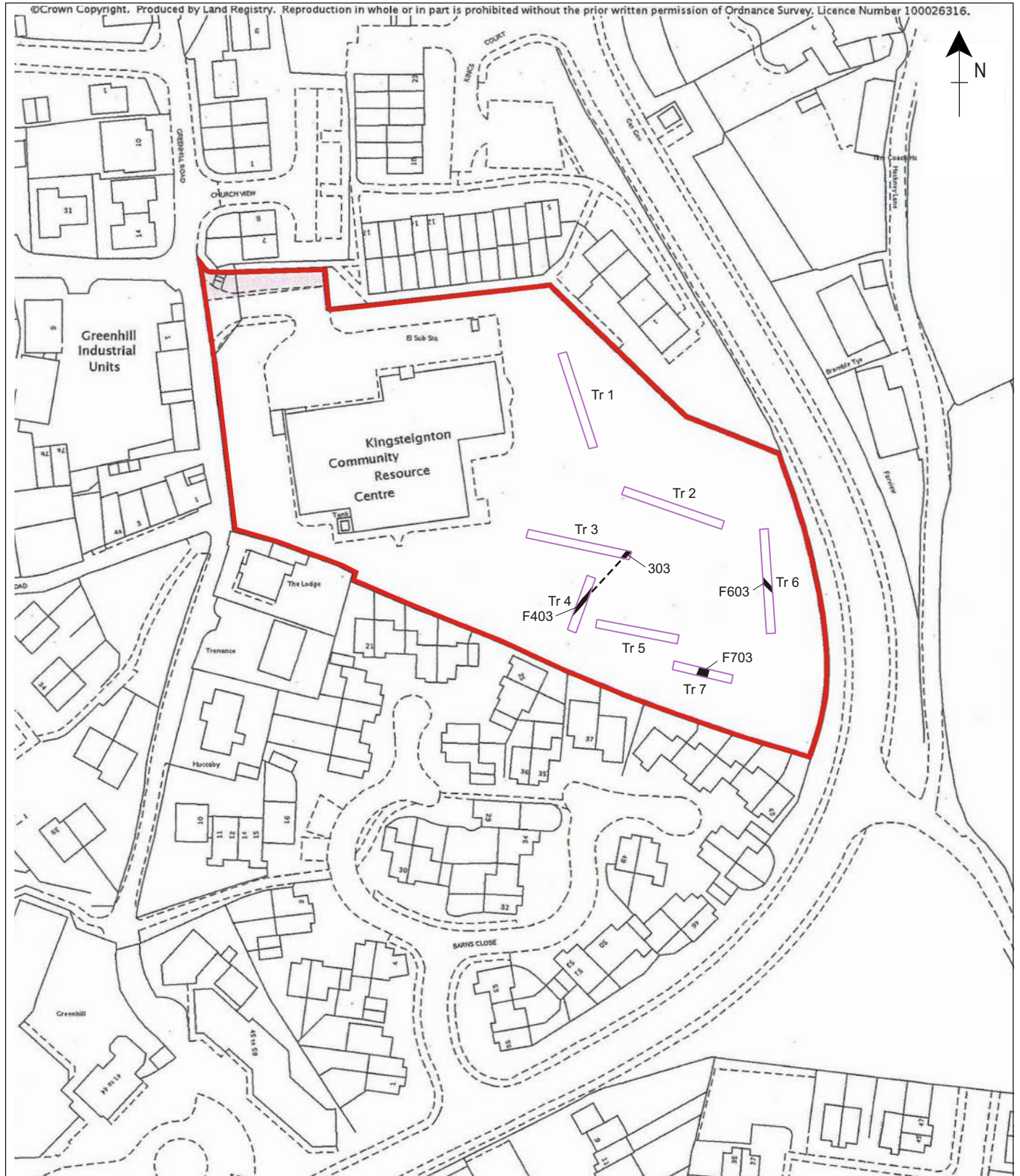
PROJECT

Greenhill Road, Kingsteignton

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





0 50m



Scale 1:1250@A4

Based on plan provided by Baker Estates

Tr 4 Trail trench with archaeological feature

PROJECT

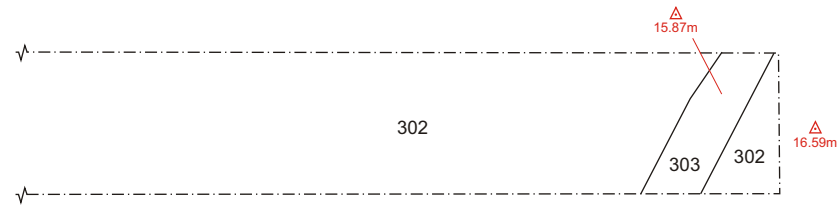
Greenhill Road, Kingsteignton

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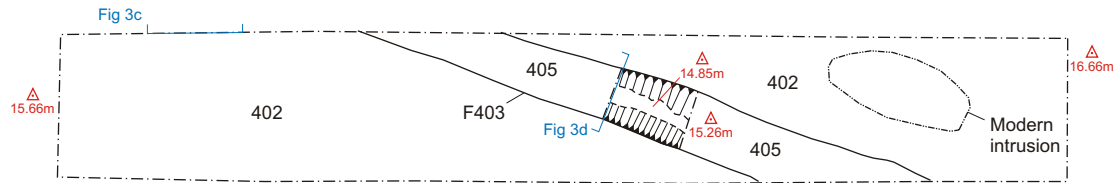
Fig. 2: Location of trial trenches with archaeological features shown



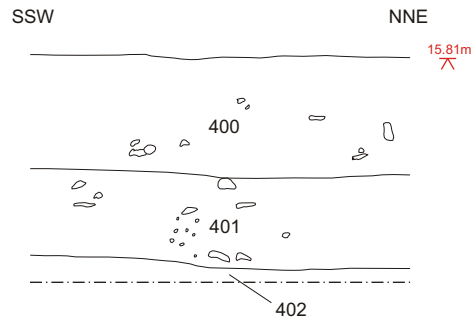
a) Plan of Trench 3



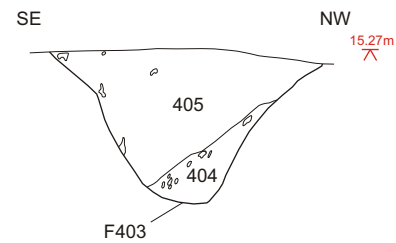
b) Plan of Trench 4



c) Representative section of Trench 4



d) Section of ditch F403



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Greenhill Road, Kingsteignton

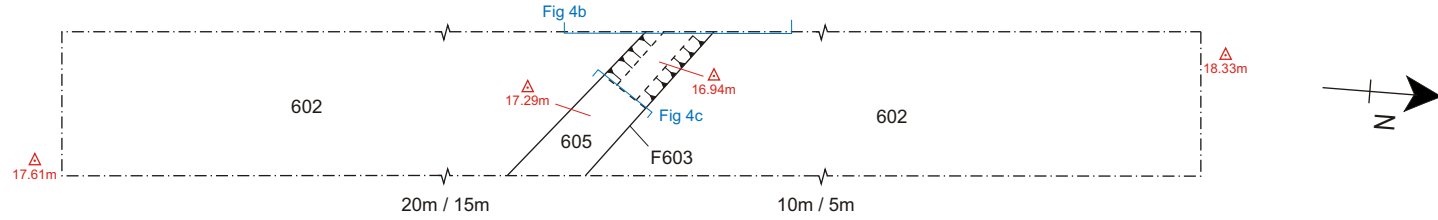
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Fig. 3: Trench 3 and 4, plans and sections

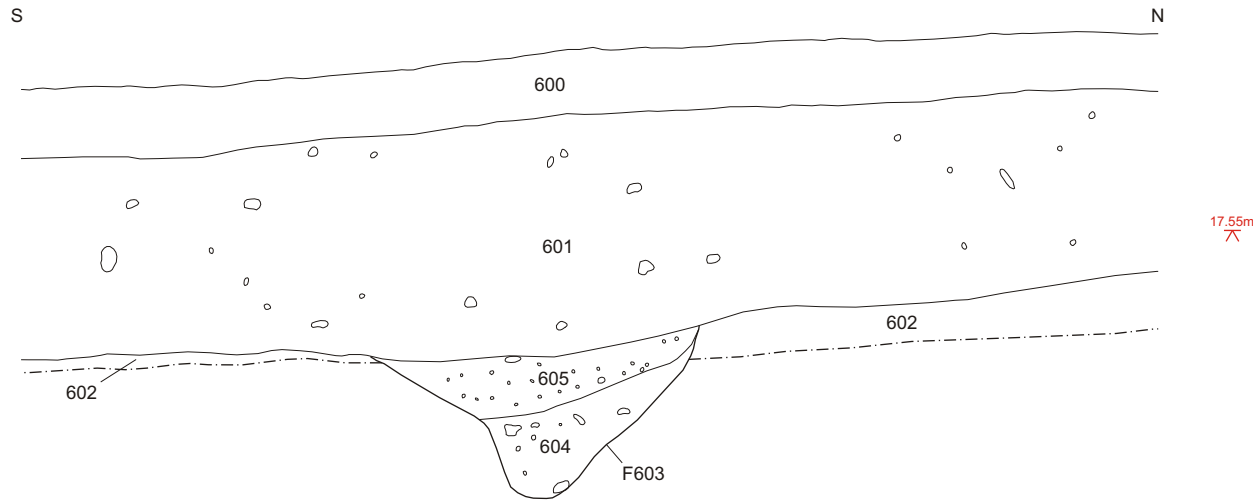


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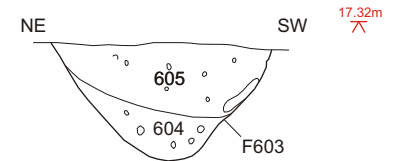
a) Plan of Trench 6



b) Section of ditch F603



c) Section of ditch F603

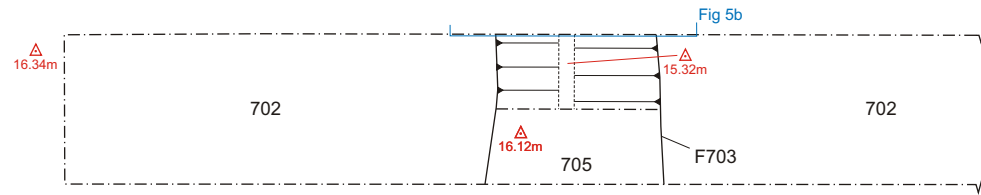


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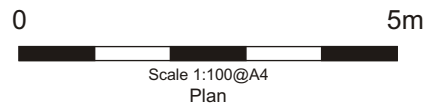
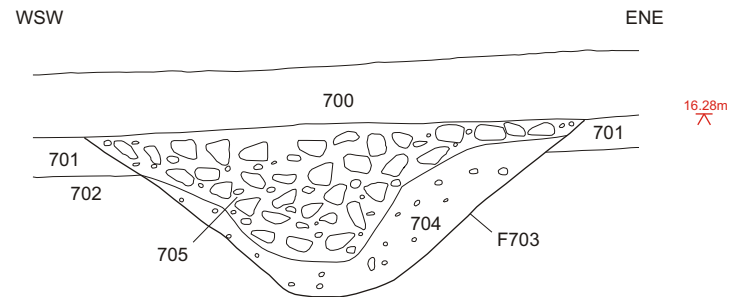
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Fig. 4: Trench 6, plan and sections



a) Plan of Trench 7



b) Section of F703



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Greenhill Road, Kingsteignton

TITLE

Fig. 5: Trench 7, plan and section



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Plate 1: General view of the site looking northwest towards Kingsteignton church tower, with Trench 5 in foreground



Plate 2: Trench 4, ditch F403, view to north-northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Trench 6, ditch F603, view to northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 7, ditch F703, view to north (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Negative trench descriptions

Appendix 1: Negative trench descriptions

Trench 1		Length 25m	Width 1.90m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with common gravel inclusions	0-0.16m	Topsoil	
101	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with common gravel inclusions	0.16-0.63m	Subsoil	
102	Light reddish-yellow sandy-clay with common gravel inclusions	0.63m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 25m	Width 1.90m	Alignment ENE- WSW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with common gravel inclusions	0-0.2m	Topsoil	
201	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with common gravel inclusions	0.2-0.6m	Subsoil	
202	Light reddish-yellow sandy-clay with common gravel inclusions	0.6m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 5		Length 20m	Width 1.90m	Alignment ENE- WSW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with common gravel inclusions	0-0.2m	Topsoil	
501	Mid greyish-brown sandy loam with common gravel inclusions	0.2-0.57m	Subsoil	
502	Light reddish-yellow sandy-clay with common gravel inclusions	0.57m+	Natural subsoil	

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