

LAND OFF BURWOOD LANE/CADDYWELL LANE, GREAT TORRINGTON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 50430 19015)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Torrige District Council Planning Reference:
1/0246/2017/OUTM

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On behalf of:
CgMs Consulting Ltd

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AC 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 trench evaluation on land off Burwood Lane/Caddywell Lane, Great Torrington, Devon (SS 50430 19015), was undertaken by AC archaeology during August 2017. The evaluation consisted of the machine-excavation of nine trenches totalling 215m in length with each 1.8m wide, as well as three small open areas measuring 16m x 8m, 15m x 8m and 11m x 8m. These were positioned to target anomalies and 'blank' areas identified by a previous geophysical survey.

The evaluation has confirmed the interpreted results of the geophysical survey, in that the buried remains of a ditched enclosure is present in Site C, the eastern field of the proposed development. Although undated, the enclosure, which is largely defined by a single ditch with two entrances, is of a type that may be regarded as typical of later prehistoric or Romano-British settlement sites in Devon. Only a few features were identified within the enclosure and these remain undated. No structures, such as roundhouses, were present. Outside the enclosure five postholes were revealed; four of these were in a cluster and the finds indicate that they may be of prehistoric date. A gully cut by the enclosure ditch indicates that there is more than one phase of prehistoric use present on the site. A field boundary ditch of modern date was the only feature uncovered in Site B, the central field. A small collection of finds was recovered, comprising prehistoric worked flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery, a medieval copper alloy jetton and a piece of late post-medieval glass. Palaeoenvironmental sampling showed small-scale evidence for ironworking and limited wild and domestic plant use.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land off Burwood Lane/Caddywell Lane, Great Torrington, Devon (SS 50430 19015; Fig. 1), was undertaken by AC archaeology during August 2017. The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of clients and was required by Torridge District Council, as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team, as supporting information for a planning application for residential development.
- 1.2 The area of proposed development is located on the south-eastern edge of Great Torrington. It covers approximately 8.5 hectares split within three separate agricultural fields (Sites A-C; Plates 1-4). The underlying solid geology across the site is Carboniferous Sandstone from the Bude formation, with overlying River Terrace deposits in the northern part of Site A and all of Site B. The very north-eastern edge of the site is mudstone and siltstone from the Bude Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Wellicome 2017), geophysical survey (Donaldson and Sabin 2017) and metal detecting survey (Archaeological Landscape Investigation 2017). The assessment established that the proposed development area was located at some distance from the historic settlement of Great Torrington, within an area which remained as sparsely settled agricultural land until the late 20th century. The metal detecting found no items of interest and all of the metal finds appeared to be of a post-medieval date and, in particular, no items such as musket or cannon balls were found to indicate that the 1646 Civil War Battle of Great Torrington was conducted in this area. In addition, Sites A and B are characterised as 'modern fields [that] have been created out of probable medieval enclosures' with 'sinuous medieval boundaries [that] survive in places' and Site C is

characterised as being part of enclosures of late medieval date by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation.

- 2.2 The main archaeological interest in the site is that a recent geophysical survey (Donaldson and Sabin 2017) had identified what appeared to be the northern part of a large rectilinear enclosure of late prehistoric or Romano-British form in Site C. It appeared to have three entrances, two on the northern arm and one in its northwest corner. Within the western and central survey areas (Sites A & B), the majority of the anomalies appear to relate to land management in the form of field boundaries, as well as several sets of land drainage systems contained within the former field boundaries within Site B.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, with particular reference to establishing the date, function and level of preservation of the probable rectilinear enclosure. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation. Following discussion with the Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team, the western field (Site A) was excluded from further work.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2017) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It comprised the machine-excavation of nine trenches totaling 215m in length and with each 1.8m wide, as well as three small open areas measuring 16m x 8m, 15m x 8m and 11m x 8m. These were positioned across possible entrances into the enclosure identified by the geophysics, as well as in blank areas to test the survey efficacy (Figs 2 and 3).
- 4.2 All trenches were located with a Leica Net rover GPS with sub-10mm accuracy. The removal of overlying deposits within the trenches was undertaken in a maximum of 0.2m spits under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural geology was exposed. Spoilheaps were scanned for displaced artefacts.
- 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 – SITE B

5.1 Introduction

Site B is the field located central to the proposed development area. Three trial trenches (1-3) were excavated, with the majority of the identified geophysics anomalies found to relate to several sets of land drainage systems. One former ditch was revealed in Trench 3 and is described below, with all of the trenches tabulated by context in **Appendix 1**. The natural subsoil

exposed within each of the trenches consisted of a mid yellow brown sandy clay containing frequent angular shale inclusions.

5.2 Trench 3 (Plan Fig. 4a, section Fig. 4b)

This trench was located close to the southeast corner of Site B and was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 10m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.21m of topsoil (context 300), overlying 0.22m of agricultural subsoil (301). The natural subsoil (302) was present at 0.43m below the ground surface. The trench contained one linear feature (F303) which matched a linear anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F303

This was northeast-southwest aligned and measured 0.3m wide by 0.07m deep, with moderately steep sides and concave base. It had a single fill (304) composed of mid yellow grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

6. RESULTS – SITE C

6.1 Introduction

Site C is the field located on the east side of the proposed development area. Six trenches (Trenches 4-9) and three small areas (Areas 1-3) were excavated. The majority of the trenches, except Trench 8, contained archaeological features and these are described below, with all of the trenches tabulated in **Appendix 1**. The natural subsoil exposed within each of the trenches and areas consisted of a mid yellow brown sandy clay with abundant gravel and frequent shale inclusions.

6.2 Trench 4 (Plans Figs 4c-d, section Fig. 4e)

This trench was located towards the west end of the site, targeting a linear anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was 30m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.32m of topsoil (context 400) and 0.14m of agricultural subsoil (401). The natural subsoil (402) was therefore present at 0.46m below the ground surface. The trench contained one posthole (F403) which was cut by a modern water pipe, which correlated well the linear anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Posthole F403

This was sub-oval in plan with moderately steep sides, a flat base and measured 0.45m long, 0.29m wide by 0.10m deep. It had a single fill (404) composed of dark brown grey silty clay from which no finds were recovered. It was cut by a modern water pipe trench.

6.3 Trench 5 (Plan Fig. 4f, sections Figs 4g-j; Plate 5)

This trench was located in the northern part of the site in a 'blank' area as interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was 25m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.29m of topsoil (context 500), overlying 0.12m of agricultural subsoil (501). The natural subsoil (502) was present at 0.41m below the ground surface. The trench contained four postholes in close proximity to one another (F504, F506, F508 and F510).

Posthole F504

This was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides, concave base and measured 0.40m long, 0.34m wide by 0.30m deep. It contained a single fill (503) composed of mid red brown clayey silt. No finds were recovered.

Posthole F506

This was located approximately 0.4m northeast of posthole F504 and was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.32m by 0.36m deep. It had a steeply sloping west side and vertical east side with an irregular base. It contained a single fill (505) composed of mid red brown clayey silty. No finds were recovered.

Posthole F508

This was located approximately 0.1m north of posthole F506 and was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.31m by 0.28m deep. It had vertical sides, a concave base and contained a single fill (507) composed of mid red brown clayey silt. No finds were recovered.

Posthole F510

This was located approximately 0.2m north of F508 and was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.33m by 0.15m deep. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (509) composed of mid red brown clayey silt. Two pieces of burnt prehistoric worked flint were recovered. A soil sample contained limited poorly preserved remains of hazelnut shell and possible grains tentatively indicating some domestic activity in the area of the posthole.

6.4 Trench 6 (Plan Fig. 5a, section Fig. 5b; Plate 6)

This trench was located in the centre of the site and positioned to test the possible enclosure interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. It was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 10m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.21m of topsoil (context 600) overlying 0.04m of subsoil (601). The natural subsoil (602) was therefore present at 0.25m below the ground surface. The trench contained one linear feature (F603) which correlated well with the anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F603

This was approximately northeast to southwest aligned and extended across the middle of the trench. It measured 1.90m wide and 0.53m deep, with moderately steep sides and uneven base. The primary fill (604) was composed of dark grey brown silty clay. The upper fill (605) was composed of mid grey brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from these fills. In this area there was a negligible deposit of subsoil below shallow topsoil and, although the enclosure ditch appeared to cut the subsoil, the layer in this area should be regarded as a natural interface.

6.5 Trench 7 (Plan Fig. 6a, section Fig. 6b; Plate 7)

This trench was located on the southwest side of the site and positioned to test the possible enclosure interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. It was aligned northeast-southwest and was 20m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.26m of topsoil (700) and 0.20m agricultural subsoil (701). The natural subsoil (702) was exposed at a depth of 0.46m below the existing ground level. It contained two ditches (F703 and F708), one of which (F703) correlated well with the enclosure interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F703

Ditch F703 was northwest-southeast aligned and measured 1.83m wide by 0.95m deep, with a V-shaped profile. Four fills were identified within this ditch (704-7). The primary fill (704) was composed of light yellow grey silty clay. Secondary fill 705 was composed of light brown grey silty clay. Tertiary fill 706 was a mid yellow brown sandy clay, while upper fill 707 was a light brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered.

Ditch F708

Ditch F708 was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 1.79m wide by 1.16m deep, with a V-shaped profile. It contained three fills (709-11). Primary fill 709 was composed of mid yellow

grey silty clay. Secondary fill 710 was a light yellow brown silty clay, while upper fill 711 was a dark yellow brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

6.6 Trench 9 (Plan Fig. 7a, sections Figs 7b-c; Plates 8-9)

This trench was located on the east side of the site and positioned in an area of irregular linear anomalies as interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. It was aligned northeast-southwest and was 40m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.30m of topsoil (900) and 0.16m agricultural subsoil (901). Natural subsoil (902) was exposed at a depth of 0.46m below the existing ground level. It contained two ditches (F903 and F905) one of which (F903) correlated well with an anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F903

This was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and measured 1.53m wide by 0.40m deep, with steep sides and irregular base. It had a single fill (904) composed of mid yellow brown silty clay, from which one piece of medieval pottery and a piece of post-medieval glass was recovered.

Ditch F905

This ditch was only partially exposed in the trench. It was aligned approximately east-west and measured 1.94m wide and 0.43m deep, with steep irregular sides and an irregular and stepped base. It contained two fills (906-7). Primary fill 906 was composed of mid yellow grey sandy clay. Upper fill 907 was composed of mid yellow brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered from these fills.

6.7 Area 1 (Plan Fig. 8a, sections Figs 8b-d; Plates 10-12)

This area was located centrally on the west side of the site and positioned to test two possible linear terminals and a discrete anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The excavation area measured 16m x 8m. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (1000) and 0.15m of agricultural subsoil (1001). Natural subsoil (1002) was exposed at a depth of 0.38m below the existing ground level. The area contained two linear terminals (F1003 and F1004) and a discrete feature (F1011), all which correlated well with the anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F1003

This was a terminal aligned northwest-southeast and extended into the trench from the southeast. It measured 2.51m wide and 1.53m deep, with very steep sides and slightly concave base. It contained five fills which comprised a sequence of four silty sandy clay deposits (1014, 1013, 1009 and 1008) that were overlain by a dark brown grey clayey silt upper fill (1010). One piece of medieval pottery and a medieval copper alloy English jetton were recovered from this upper fill.

Ditch F1004

Ditch F1004 was a terminal aligned northeast-southwest and extended into the trench from the northeast. It measured 1.85m wide and 0.74m deep, with steeply sloping sides and undulating base. It contained three fills (1005-7). Primary fill 1005 was composed of mid grey brown silty clay. Secondary fill 1006 was composed of mid yellow brown clayey silt, while upper fill 1007 was a mid yellow brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from these fills.

Pit F1011

This was irregular in plan and measured 3.9m long by 1.89m wide and 0.45m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (1012) composed of mid brown red clayey silt. No finds were recovered from the fill.

6.8 Area 2 (Plan Fig. 9a, sections Figs 9b-d and 10a; Plates 13-14)

This area was located centrally within the site and positioned to test a possible enclosure entrance and a discrete anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The excavation area measured approximately 15m x 8m. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.33m of topsoil (2000) and 0.15m of agricultural subsoil (2001). Natural subsoil (2002) was exposed at a depth of 0.48m below the existing ground level. The area contained two linear features (F2005 and F2009), one of which (F2005) correlated with the interpreted results of the geophysical survey although no entrance gap was present, as well as two pits (F2004 and F2011) and one posthole (F2013).

Ditch F2005

This was northeast to southwest aligned and was the enclosure ditch which cut across gully F2009. It measured 2.09m wide and 0.78m deep, with steep sloping sides and flat base. The ditch contained three fills (2006-8). Primary fill 2006 was composed of mid yellow brown silty clay. Secondary fill 2007 was a mid brown silty clay, while upper fill 2008 was a light yellow brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from these fills.

Gully F2009

This was northwest to southeast aligned and was the enclosure ditch which cut gully F2005. It measured 1.66m wide and 0.30m deep, with gradual-sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (2010) composed of light yellow brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Pit F2004

This was sub-oval in plan and located on the northeast side of Area 2. It measured 0.97m long by 0.62m wide and 0.16m deep with gradual-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (2003) composed of mid brown red clayey silt. No finds were recovered. A soil sample from this fill produced a quantity of charred hazelnut shells and residue from iron working, indicating the potential for domestic and small-scale industrial activity in the area of the pit.

Pit F2011

This was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.34m long by 0.30m wide and 0.11m deep, with steeply sloping sides and concave base. It contained a single fill (2012) composed of dark brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Posthole F2013

This was sub-oval in plan and measured 0.61m long and 0.34 wide by 0.34m deep, with steeply sloping sides and concave base. It contained a single fill (2014) composed of light brown grey sandy clay. No finds were recovered.

6.9 Area 3 (Plan Fig. 11a, sections Figs 11b-c; Plates 15-17)

This area was located on the northeast corner of the site and positioned to test a possible enclosure entrance interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The excavation area measured 11m x 8m. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.26m of topsoil (3000) and 0.11m of agricultural subsoil (3001). Natural subsoil (3002) was exposed at a depth of 0.37m below the existing ground level. The area contained two linear terminals (F3003 and F3009), which correlated well with the possible entrance anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F3003

This was a terminal aligned northeast-southwest and extended into the trench from the southwest. It measured 1.75m wide and 1.50m deep, with steeply sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained five fills (3004-8) which comprised a sequence of four silty clay deposits (3004, 3005, 3006 and 3007) that were overlain by a mid grey brown silty clay upper fill (3008). No finds were recovered from these fills.

Ditch F3009

This was a terminal aligned northeast–southwest and extended into the trench from the northeast. It measured 1.75m wide and 1.45m deep, with steeply sloping sides and undulating base. It contained three fills (3010-2). Primary fill 3010 was composed of mid yellow brown silty clay. Secondary fill 3011 was composed of mid grey brown silty clay. Upper fill 3012 was composed of dark grey brown silty clay, which contained three sherds of medieval pottery and a piece of prehistoric worked flint.

7. THE FINDS *by Charlotte Coles and Naomi Payne*

7.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site during the evaluation have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. They have been quantified according to material type within each context and the assemblage examined to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. The collection of finds is summarised in Table 1.

Context	Context Description	Copper Alloy		Worked Flint		Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		Glass	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
509	Fill of posthole F510			2	1						
700	Topsoil							1	6		
900	Topsoil							1	45		
904	Fill of ditch F903					1	1			1	6
1010	Upper fill of ditch F1003	1	1			1	5				
2000	Topsoil							1	13		
3001	Subsoil							1	3		
3012	Upper fill of ditch F3009			1	30	3	17				
Total		1	1	3	31	5	23	4	67	1	6

Table 1: Finds quantification by context (weights in grams)

7.2 Metal finds

An incomplete copper alloy English jetton was recovered from context 1010, fill of ditch F1003. About 75% of the jetton, which is quite worn, has survived. It has a small perforation in the centre. There are two borders of pellets; the outer larger and the inner smaller, on both sides. On one side the ends of a short cross moline can just be made out inside the pellet borders. There is no detail visible within the borders on the other side. The jetton is probably a double-reverse type dating from the period AD 1280-1343.

7.3 Worked flint

Three pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from two contexts. The two small flakes from context 509 are burnt. The other piece from context 3012 is a core in mottled grey flint. All are late prehistoric, probably Bronze Age, in date.

7.4 Medieval pottery

A total of five sherds of medieval pottery was found from three contexts. These are all North Devon medieval coarseware body sherds. This type of pottery had a long production life from 1200 AD to the middle of the 15th century (Allan 1994).

7.5 Post-medieval pottery

Four sherds of post-medieval pottery were retrieved from three contexts. The majority of these are stoneware, with two pieces of English stoneware from contexts 900 and 2000 including a

handle from a stoneware bottle. Both are late 18th or 19th century. The other sherd is a piece of Raeren pottery imported from the low countries from the 16th and 17th centuries. The only piece of earthenware is a body sherd of North Devon pottery from the topsoil. This dates from the 17th or 18th century.

7.6 Glass

A single shard of glass was retrieved from context 904. This is a piece of very abraded green bottle glass dating from the 18th or 19th centuries.

8. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT by Cressida Whitton

8.1 Introduction and methodology

Six environmental soil samples were recovered during the evaluation, from the fills of four postholes in Trench 5 and a posthole and pit in Area 2. Two priority samples were selected from posthole F510 (Sample 4) and pit F2004 (Sample 5) and processed by flotation/sieving in a siraf-type tank, using standard AC archaeology methods. 20% of the large dried flots were sorted under a stereo-binocular microscope (10-30 x magnification) and all other residues (5.6mm/2mm and 500 micron) were 100% sorted for artefacts and ecofacts. The results are presented in Table 2.

Sample no.	Context no.	Description	Sample volume Litres (Lts.) processed & % of Flot assessed (scanning & sorting) Small flot – 0.25 -0.5ml Medium flot – 0.5 litre +	Ecofacts Charcoal fragments - % size (mm) % trunk/branchwood (t/bWd) &/or charred Roundwood (rwd) twig. charcoal amounts xxx – frequent (100+) xx – moderate (50 - 100) x – occasional (25 - 50) Charred Plant Macrofossils (CPM) - grain (type) /weed seed/but, nut/berry (type) & Hazelnut Shell (HNS)
4	509	Charcoal-rich fill of posthole F510	10 litres processed (100% of sample). 100% of small flot sorted	x – occasional t/b wd charcoal fragments medium – large size 5 – 20 mm). CPM <10 x HNS CPM x ?2 weed seeds/grain CPM 1 x woody bud
5	2003	Charcoal-rich fill of pit F2004	20 Lts (50% of sample). 100% of medium flot sorted	xxx – charcoal 5 – 15 mm fragments, (includes 1 x small roundwood branch fragment) CPM - 30 + HNS CPM – 5 - 8 x grain (poorly preserved) CPM – 1 x stalk (? cereal chaff) CPM – 1 x weed seed & <5 ?weed seeds/woody buds 100+ fragments of small fuel-ash/coke type or very poorly preserved ?grain fragments.

Table 2: Results of palaeoenvironmental assessment

8.2 Results

Sample 5 (2003) from pit F2004, has good environmental potential, containing frequent trunk/branchwood charcoal fragments (5-15mm) and 30+ Hazelnut Shell (HNS) fragments, as well as, a moderate amount of poorly-preserved grains/chaff and weed seeds. The dried sample flot/residue was blackened by frequent amounts of large, grey-black, powdery fragments with a vesicular structure - possibly fuel-ash or coke, which might represent furnace/oven waste. The sample also contained a moderate amount of hammerscale and slag, indicative of iron metal-working (smithing) activity nearby and possible smelting. The small concentration of grain and

frequent industrial/fuel waste in this sample, indicates it could represent domestic waste, which may have included some small-scale craft/industrial activity. Sample 4 (509), from the posthole F510 in Trench 5 had more limited environmental potential, containing only occasional charcoal fragments, HNS/ CPM weed seeds/grain. The posthole fill, which is limited in volume, however still shows some domestic background.

9. DISCUSSION

9.1 The results of the evaluation largely support the geophysical survey interpretation, in that the linear anomalies were mainly found to be features that probably relate to a rectilinear enclosure. A small number of discrete features that had not been identified by the geophysical survey were also present.

9.2 Finds from the enclosure ditch were very limited, consisting of four sherds of medieval pottery and one prehistoric worked flint core. These were all from the uppermost fill which, where finds were present, was much darker than the lower leached fills where no finds were present. The enclosure is located on a gentle southwest facing slope. The ditch defining the north side is approximately 170m long and there is a possibility that it continues into neighbouring fields, although it is also possible that the current field boundaries to the east and south mark the limits of the former enclosure. On the west side the enclosure a parallel outer ditch was identified, although this was not indicated by the results of the geophysical survey and is not present elsewhere in the excavated trenches and areas. That the enclosure was still a visible earthwork in medieval times is suggested by the name of the adjacent Burwood farm, with the 'bur' element of the name possibly derived from the Old English 'burh', a placename element that is typically applied to earthwork enclosures. In regard to the topography (on a hill-slope), rectilinear shape in plan (albeit partial) and ditch sections, the character of the enclosure may be considered as typical of later prehistoric or Romano-British enclosures in Devon. The medieval finds may be regarded as having been ploughed into the hollows of the silted ditch remaining at the time the site was taken into agricultural production during the medieval and more recent periods.

Square and rectilinear enclosures are typical of rural settlement sites dated to the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods in Devon (Brindle 2016, 345-6). Examples have been excavated to the south and east of Exeter at St Loye's (Salvatore *et al. forthcoming*), Hayes Farm (Simpson *et al.* 1989) and Aller Cross, Kingskerswell (Hughes 2015) and, for example, elsewhere in Devon at Blackhorse, on the route of the A30 in East Devon (Butterworth 1999), Hazard Farm, Totnes (Pears and Rainbird 2014), Rudge, Morchard Bishop (Todd 1998), Holworthy Farm, Parracombe (Green 2009) and Tews Lane, Fremington (Cooke and Valentin 2016). Enclosed settlements such as the current site were not positioned to be defensive, but the ditches provided security as well as possibly an element of display. At Billany Farm, Dartington a sub-square enclosure was defined by a ditch showing significant variation in size and profile in each of the two slots excavated (Mudd and Joyce 2014). The current site is quite unusual in having more than one entrance, although the enclosure at Rudge also had at least two (Todd 1998).

9.3 The interior of the enclosure contained only a handful of archaeological features. Two shallow ditches (F903 and F905) in Trench 9 were in an area where irregular linear anomalies which were interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey as probably natural in origin. Ditch F903 matched the position of one of these and this and ditch F905 were quite irregular in form. Ditch F903 contained one sherd of medieval pottery and a piece of late post-medieval glass. Ditch F905 contained no finds and the function or origin of these ditches could not be established. The only other features within the enclosure were two postholes (F2011 and F2013) and a shallow pit (F2004) in excavation Area 2. Area 2 was examined as the results of the geophysical survey were interpreted as showing the position of an entrance for the enclosure. The excavation showed that this was not the case and the closely spaced postholes are not part of an entrance

structure. They contained no finds and no pattern defining a structure could be detected. Pit F2004 was found to contain charred hazelnut shells and iron working residues which may indicate that both domestic and industrial activity was taking place in this area. If the pit and postholes are contemporary with the enclosure ditch, then their closeness to the back of it indicates that the ditch was not furnished with an internal bank. Also in Area 2 a gully (F2009), which had not been identified in the geophysical survey, pre-dated the enclosure and was cut by it. There was no dating evidence from gully F2009, but it does indicate that there is more than one phase of early activity on the site. The only other feature that was in close proximity to the enclosure was pit F1011 in excavation Area 1. This pit was located between the terminals forming an entrance in the northwest angle of the enclosure. The pit contained no finds, but it was filled with silt and, being positioned slightly downslope from the entrance, could have acted as a sump to help maintain the integrity of the entrance surface during wet weather.

- 9.4** Other archaeological features were present in Trenches 4 and 5 external to the enclosure. In Trench 4 an isolated posthole (F403), which contained no finds, had been cut by a trench holding a modern water pipe. In Trench 5 was a cluster of four closely spaced postholes (F504, F506, F508 and F510). The only finds were two worked flints from posthole F510 and some limited hazelnut shell and grain evidence retrieved from a soil sample taken from this posthole. The current evidence would suggest a prehistoric date for this cluster of features although no pattern is present to indicate what type of structure these relate to and they were not identified by the geophysical survey.
- 9.5** The only feature of possible archaeological interest identified in Site B was ditch F303 in Trench 3. This contained no finds but has been found to mark the position of a former field boundary known from historic mapping and established after 1887 and is therefore modern in date.

10. CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1** The evaluation has confirmed the interpreted results of the geophysical survey in that the buried remains of a ditched enclosure is present in Site C, the eastern field of the proposed development. Although undated, the enclosure which is largely defined by a single ditch with two entrances, is of a type that may be regarded as typical of later prehistoric or Romano-British settlement sites in Devon. Only a few features were identified within the enclosure and these remain undated. No structures, such as roundhouses, were revealed.
- 10.2** Outside of the enclosure in Site C five postholes were present. Four of these were in a cluster and the finds indicate that they may be of prehistoric date, although no structure that they belong to could be discerned. A gully cut by the enclosure ditch indicates that there is more than one phase of prehistoric use present on the site.
- 10.3** A field boundary ditch of modern date was the only feature uncovered in Site B.

11. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 11.1** The finds, paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1608**. The finds and paper archive will be offered to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon under the accession number **NDDMS:7.2017a**, but if they are unable to accept this, then it will be dealt with under their current accession policy. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established.

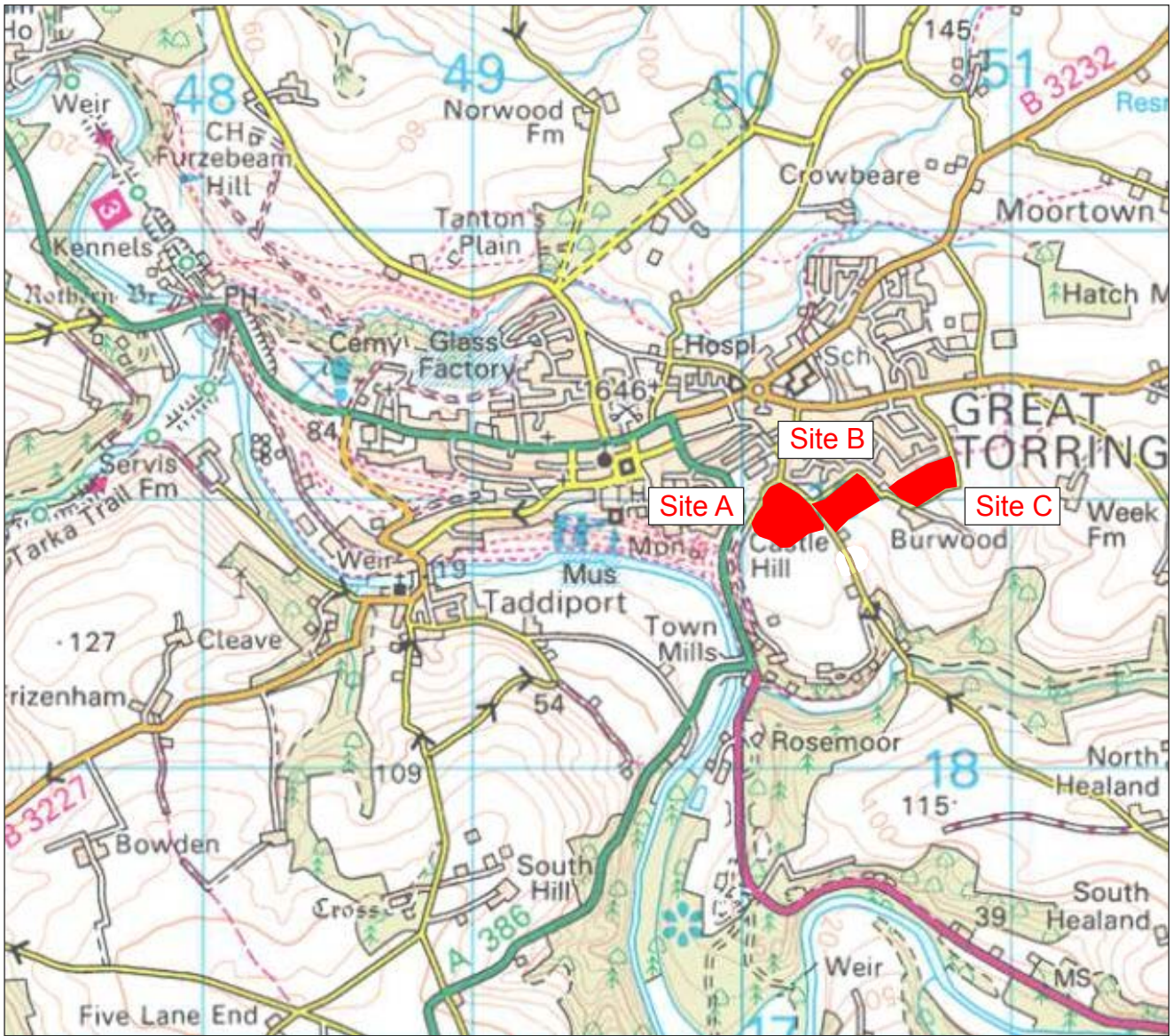
- 11.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **296105**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

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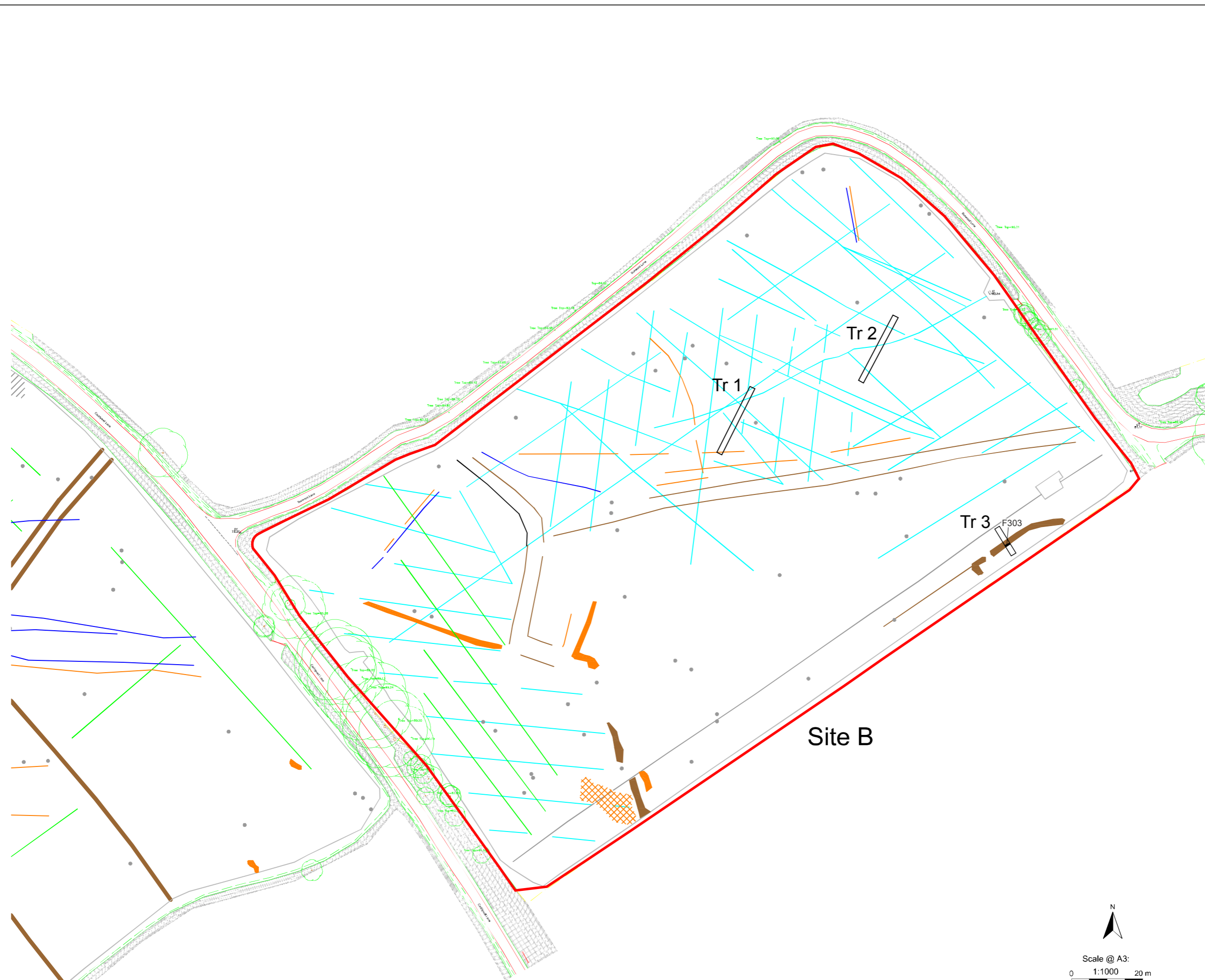
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Great Torrington, Devon

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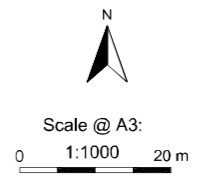
Fig. 1: Site location





- Legend**
- Site boundary
 - Trenches 1-3

Site B



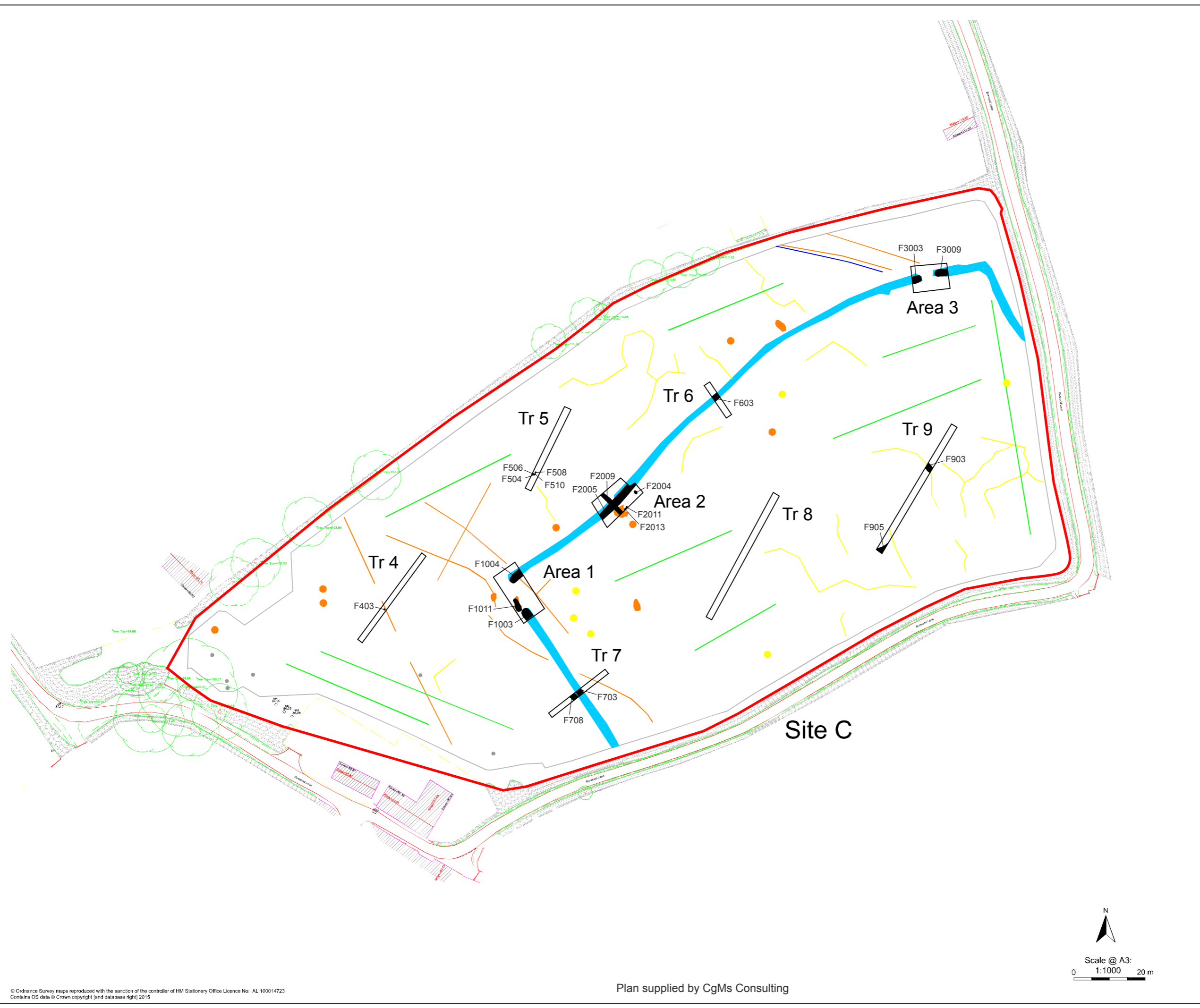
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 Fig. 2: Site B, trench plan showing
 archaeological features identified
 in relation to the geophysics



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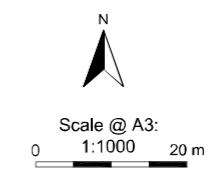
Plan supplied by CgMs Consulting



- Legend**
- Site boundary
 - Trenches 4-9
 - Areas 1-3

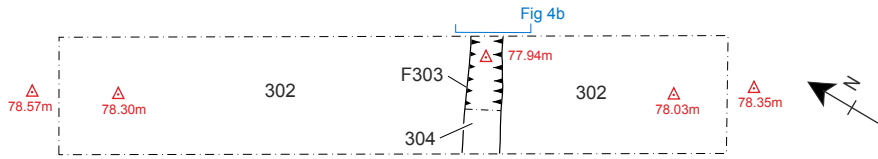
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 Devon

TITLE
 Fig. 3: Site C, trench plan showing
 archaeological features identified
 in relation to the geophysics

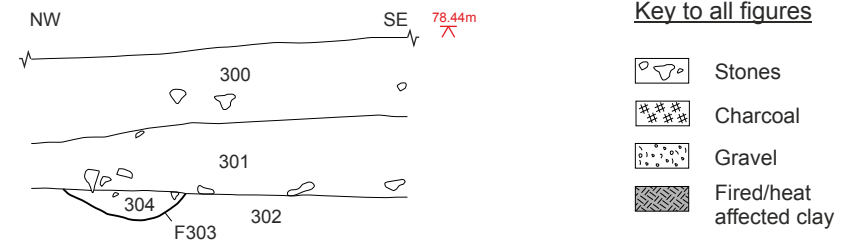


Site B

a) Trench 3, plan

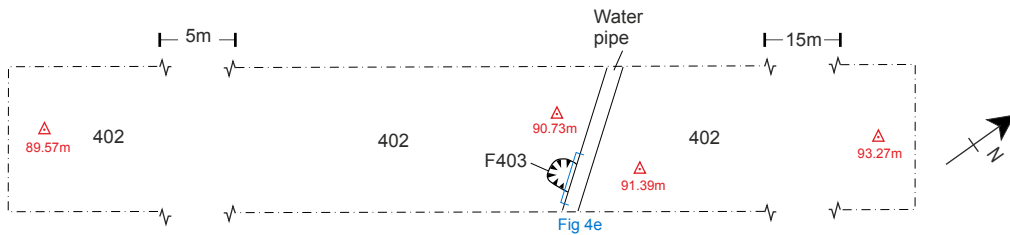


b) Section of ditch F303

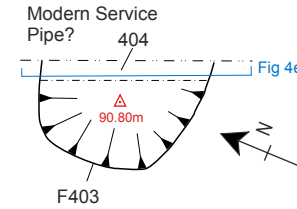


Site C

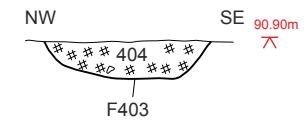
c) Trench 4, plan



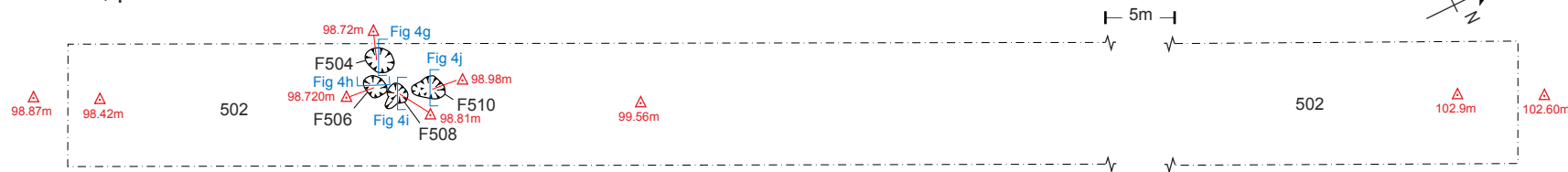
d) Plan of posthole F403



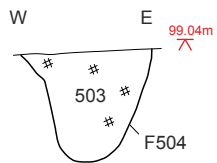
e) Section of posthole F403



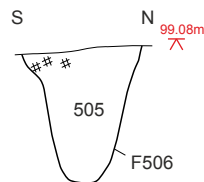
f) Trench 5, plan



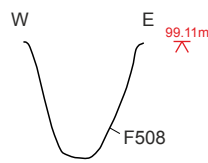
g) Section of posthole F504



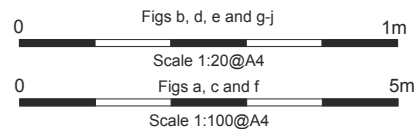
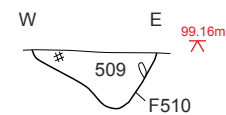
h) Section of posthole F506



i) Profile of posthole F508



j) Section of posthole F510

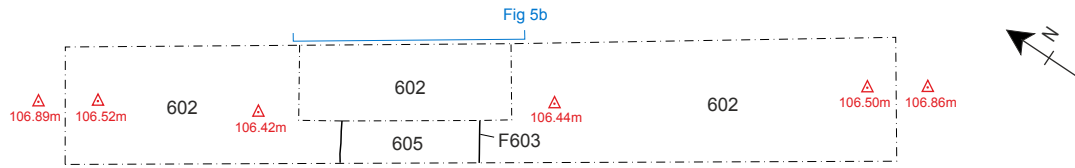


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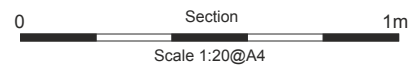
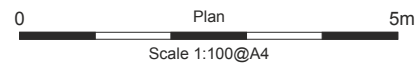
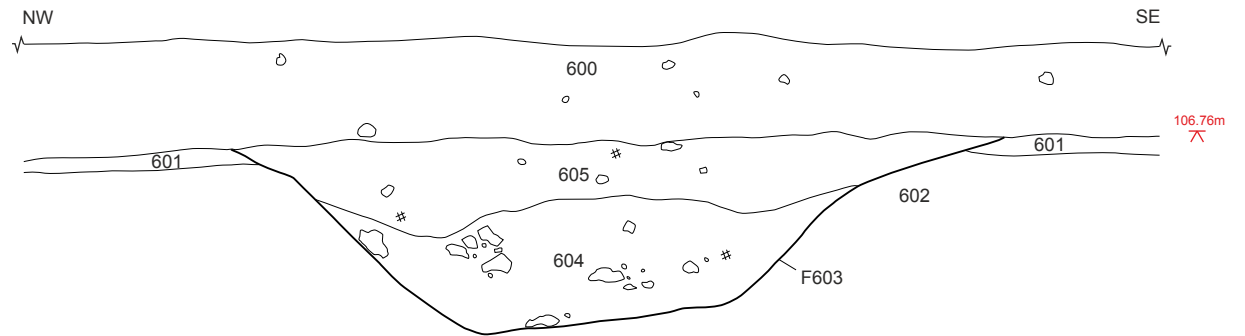
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Fig. 4: Site B, Trench 3, plan and section and Site C, Trenches 4 and 5, plans and sections

Site C

a) Trench 6, plan



b) Section of ditch F603



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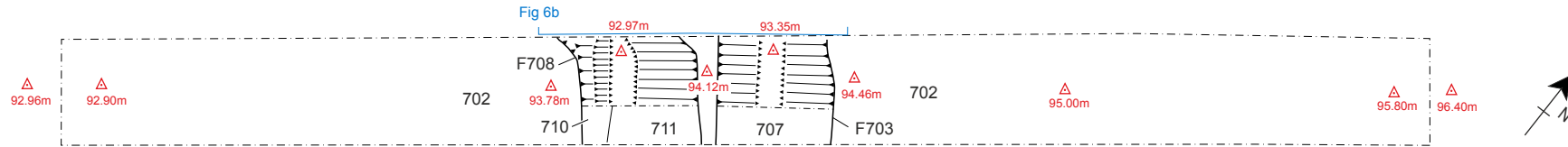
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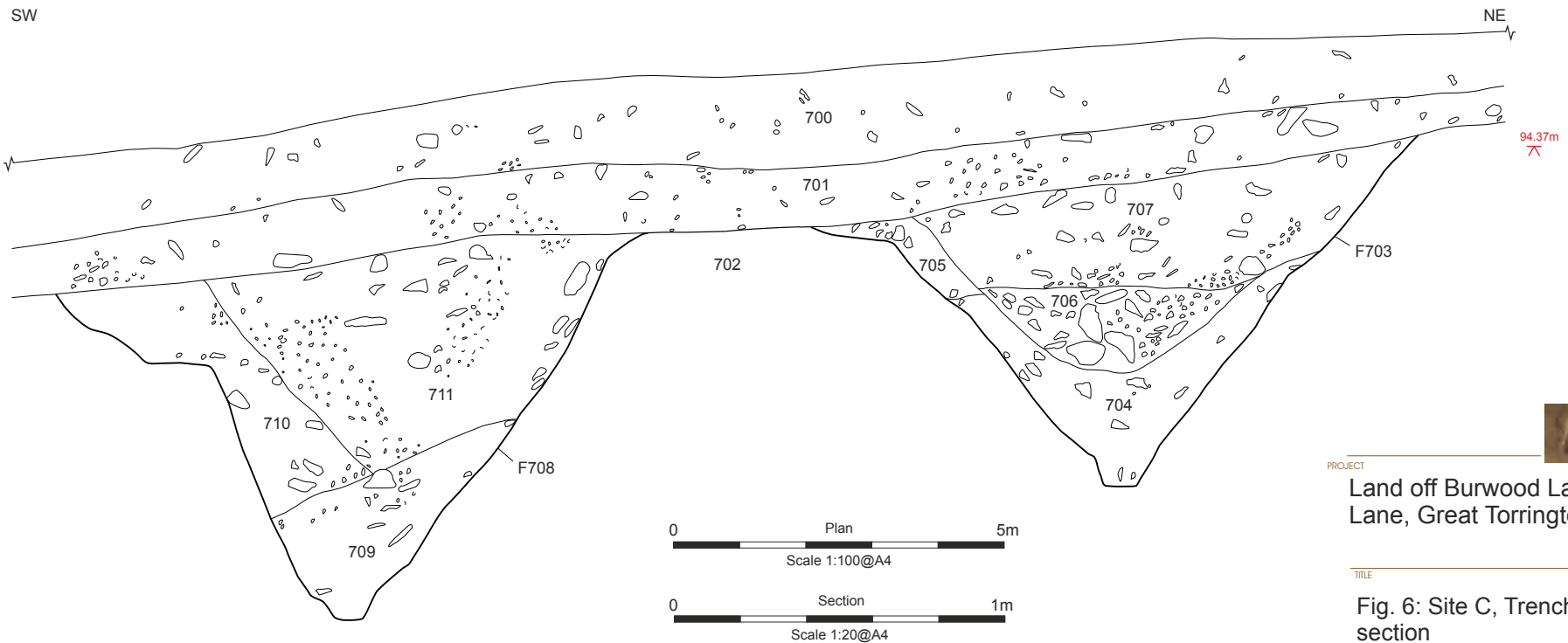
Fig. 5: Site C, Trench 6, plan and section

Site C

a) Trench 7, plan



b) Sections of ditches F703 and F708

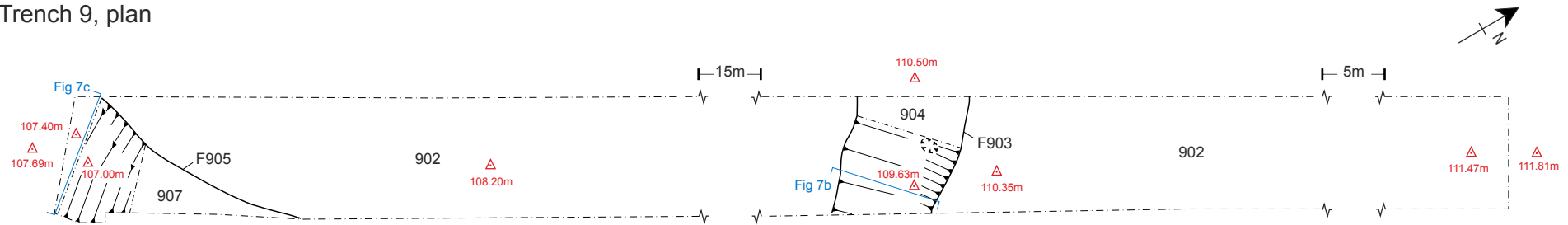


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Fig. 6: Site C, Trench 7, plan and section

Site C

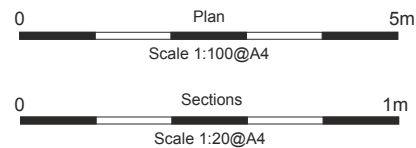
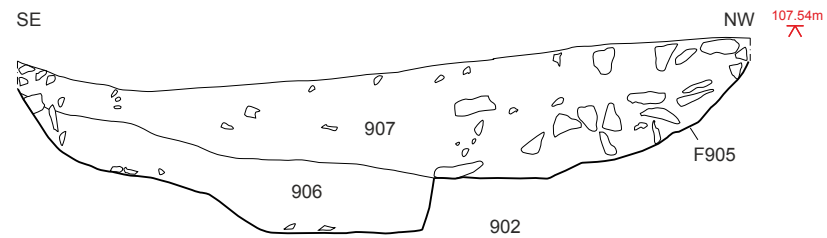
a) Trench 9, plan



b) Section of ditch F903

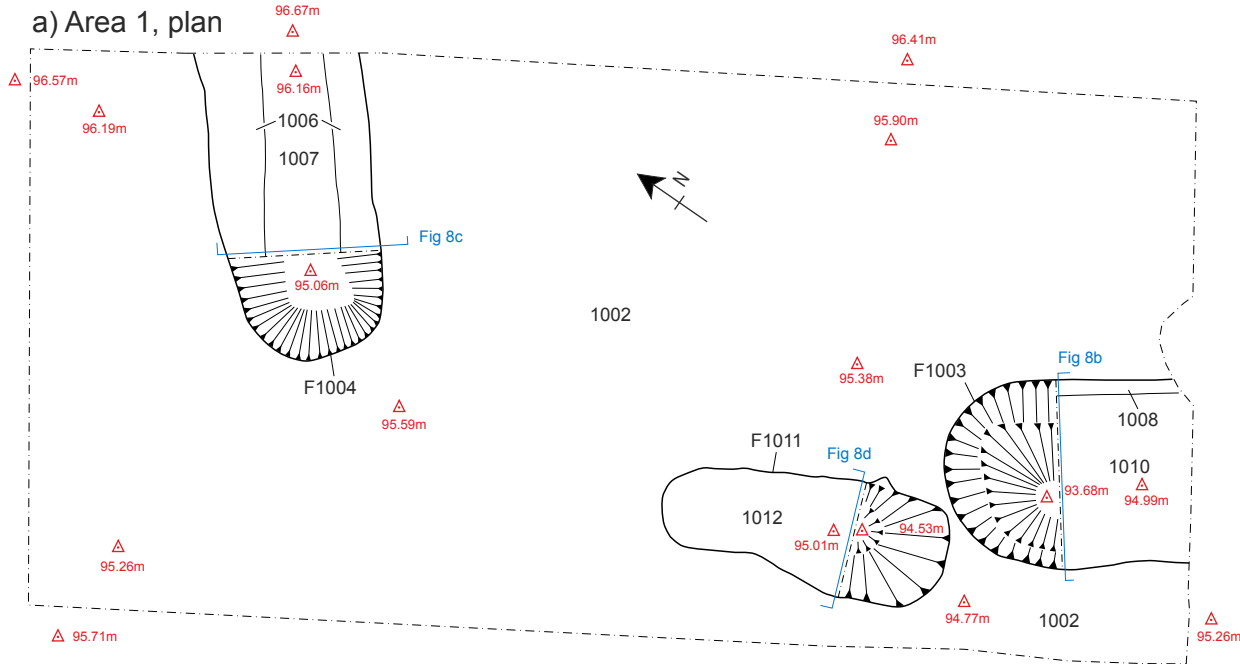


c) Section of ditch F905

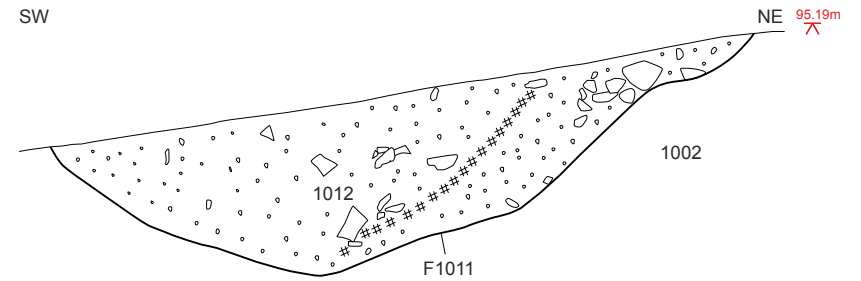


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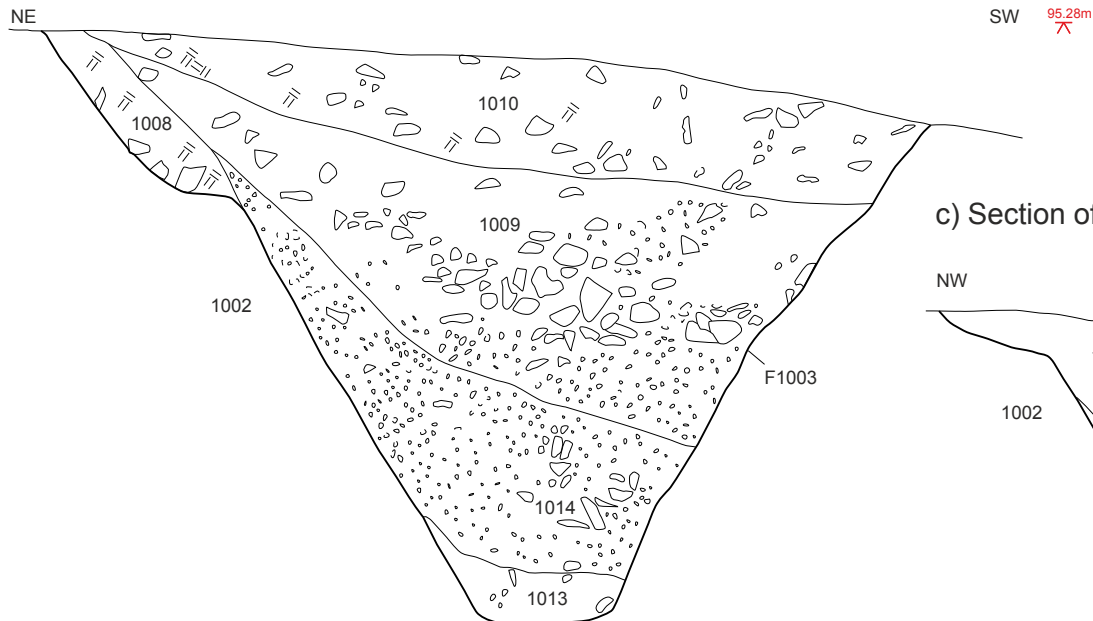
a) Area 1, plan



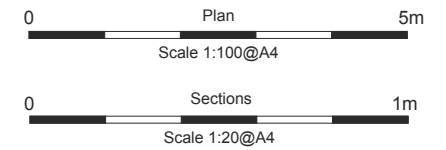
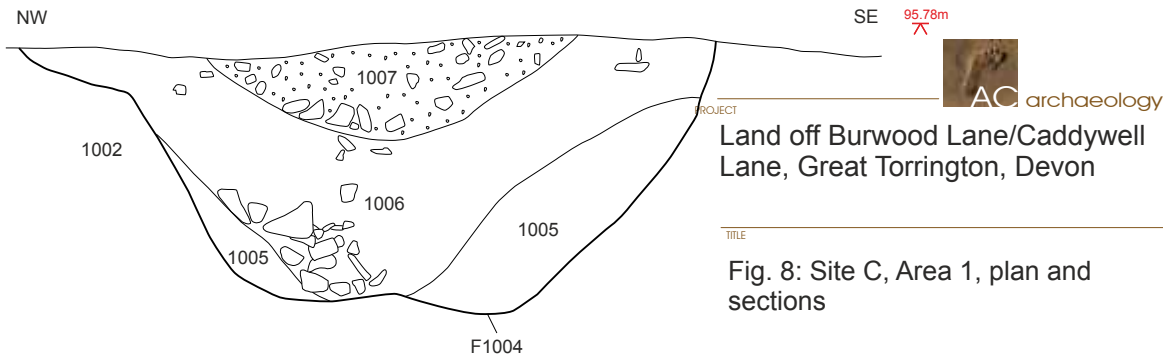
d) Section of pit F1011



b) Section of ditch terminus F1003



c) Section of ditch terminus F1004

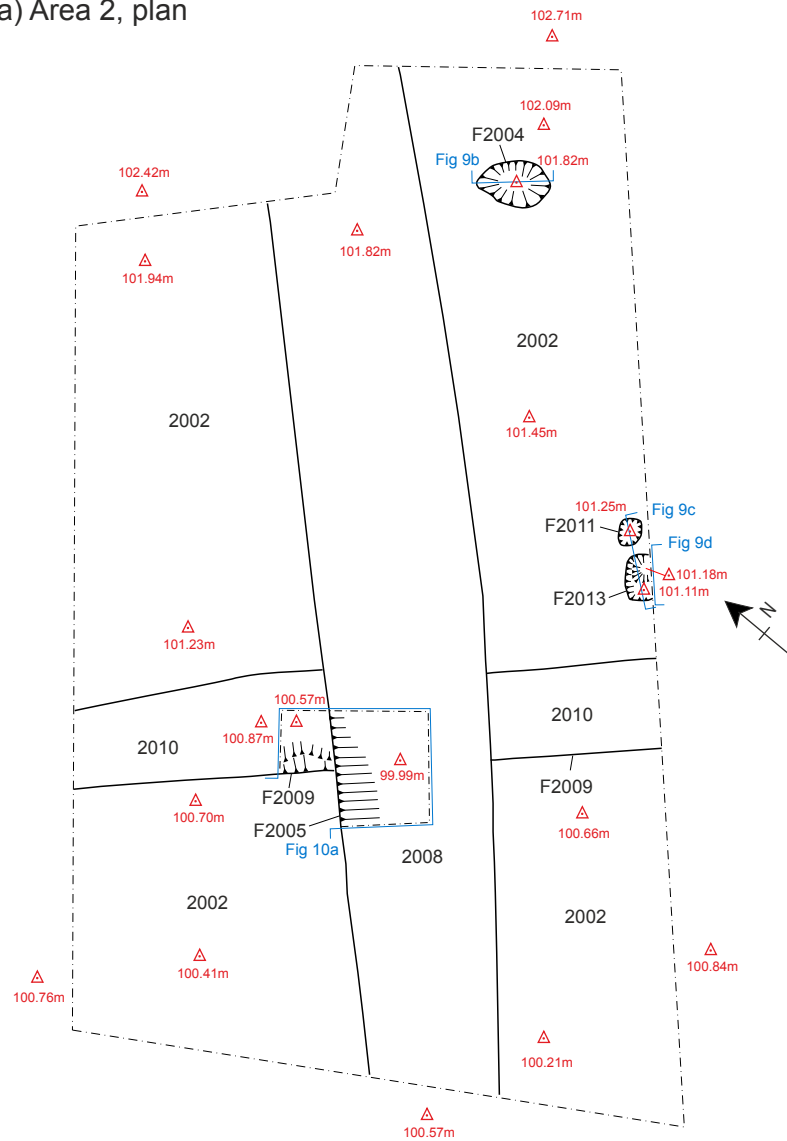


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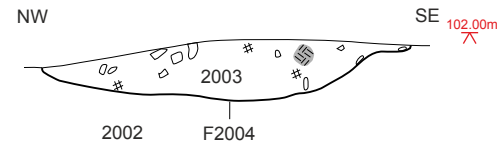
Fig. 8: Site C, Area 1, plan and sections

Site C

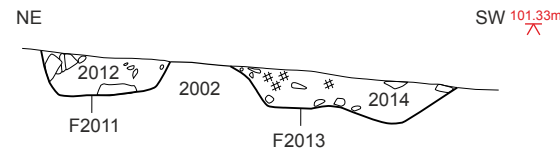
a) Area 2, plan



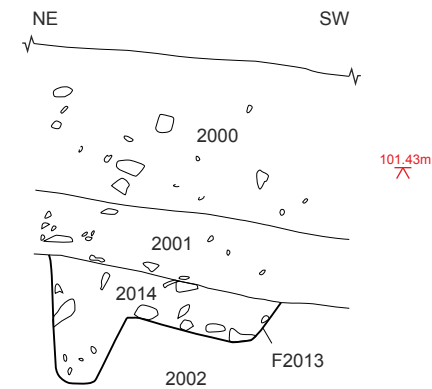
b) Section of pit F2004



c) Section of pit F2011 and posthole F2013



d) Section of posthole F2013



0 Plan 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 Sections 1m

Scale 1:20@A4



PROJECT

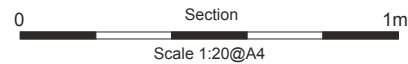
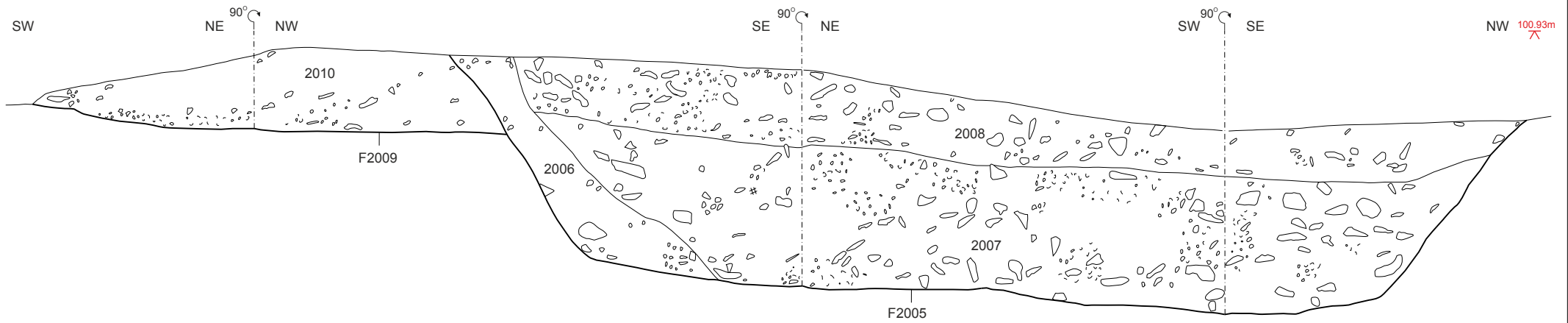
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Fig. 9: Site C, Area 2, plan and sections

Site C

a) Section of ditches F2005 and F2009

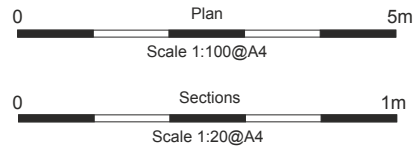
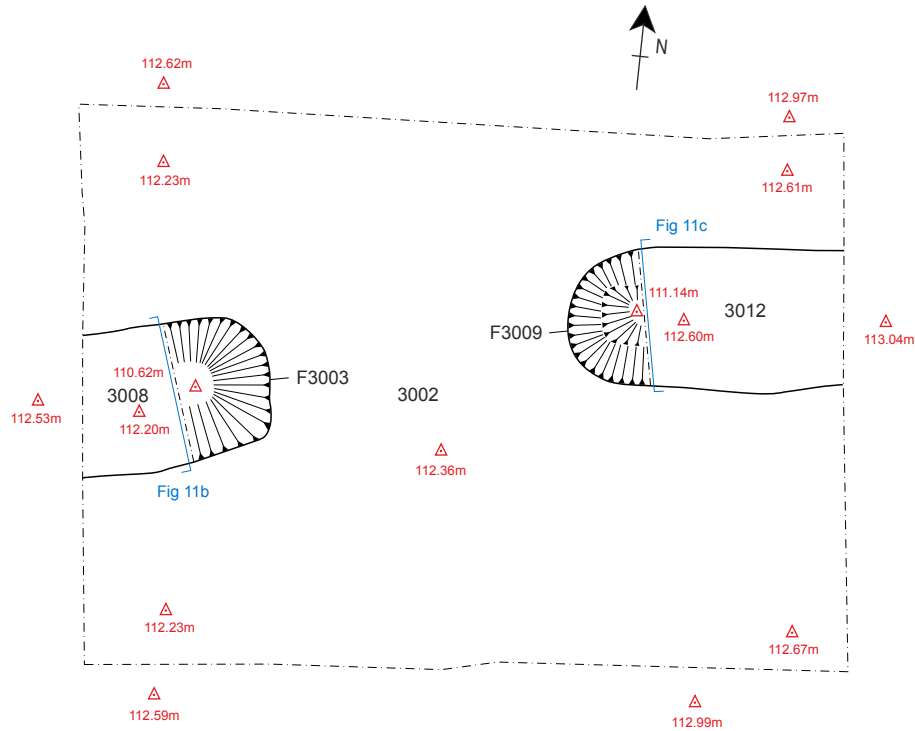


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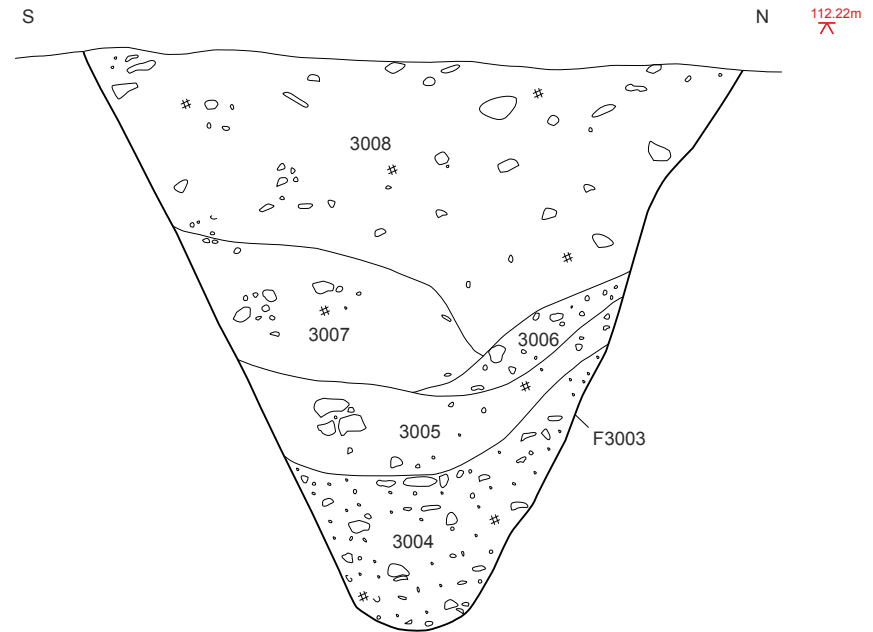
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Fig. 10: Site C, Area 2, section

Site C

a) Area 3, plan



b) Section of ditch terminus F3003



c) Section of ditch terminus F3009

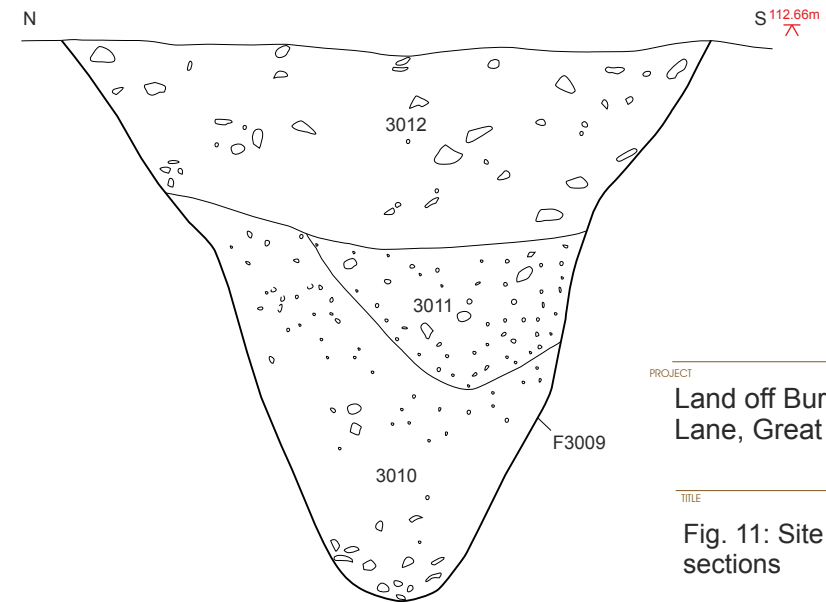




Plate 1: Site B, view to northwest



Plate 2: Site B, view to southwest



Plate 3: Site C, view to northwest



Plate 4: Site C, view to southwest



Plate 5: Trench 5, posthole cluster F504, F506, F508 and F510, view to north (scales 0.5m, 0.3m and 0.2m)



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



Plate 7: Trench 7, ditches F703 and F708, view to northwest (scales 1m and 1m)



Plate 8: Trench 9, ditch F903, view to southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 9: Trench 9, ditch F905, view to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 10: Area 1, ditches F1003 and F1004 (in foreground), view to southeast (scales 1m and 1m)



Plate 11: Area 1, ditch terminus F1003, view to southeast (scale 1m)



Plate 12: Area 1, ditch terminus F1004, view to northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 13: Area 2, pit F2004, view to northeast (scale 0.5m)



Plate 14: Area 2, ditches F2005 and F2009, view to northeast (scales 1m and 1m)



Plate 15: Area 3, ditches F3003 and F3009, view to east (scale 1m)



Plate 16: Area 3, ditch terminus F3003, view to west (scale 1m)



Plate 17: Area 3, ditch terminus F3009, view to east (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
101	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.26-0.40m	Agricultural subsoil	
102	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.40m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.31m	Topsoil	
201	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.31-0.43m	Agricultural subsoil	
202	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.43m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length 10m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
301	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.21-0.43m	Agricultural subsoil	
302	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.43m+	Natural subsoil	
F303	Linear feature NE-SW aligned measured 0.3m wide by 0.07m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	0.43-0.50m	Modern ditch	
304	Mid yellow grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0.42m+	Fill of F303	

Trench 4		Length 30m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
401	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.32-0.46m	Agricultural subsoil	
402	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	
F403	Pit feature suboval in plan measured 0.45m long and 0.29m wide by 0.10m deep with moderately steep sides and flat base	0.46-0.55m	Posthole	
404	Dark brown grey silty clay	0.46-0.55m	Fill of F403	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 5		Length 25m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.29m	Topsoil	
501	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.29-0.41m	Agricultural subsoil	
502	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.41m+	Natural subsoil	
503	Mid red brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	0.41-0.71m	Fill of F504	
F504	Pit feature suboval in plan measured 0.40m long and 0.34m wide by 0.30m deep with shallow sides and concave base	0.41-0.71m	Posthole	
505	Mid red brown clayey silt with occasional subangular pebbles	0.41-0.73m	Fill of F506	
F506	Pit feature subcircular in plan measured 0.32m in diameter by 0.36m deep with steep sides and concave base	0.41-0.73m	Posthole	
507	Mid red brown clayey silt with occasional subangular pebbles	0.41-0.69m	Fill of F508	
F508	Pit feature subcircular in plan measured 0.31m in diameter by 0.28m deep with steep sides and concave base	0.41-0.69m	Posthole	
509	Mid red brown clayey silt with occasional subangular pebbles	0.41-0.56m	Fill of F510	
F510	Pit feature subcircular in plan measured 0.33m in diameter by 0.15m deep with steep sides and concave base	0.41-0.56m	Posthole	

Trench 6		Length 10m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
601	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.21-0.25m	Agricultural subsoil	
602	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.25m+	Natural subsoil	
F603	Linear feature NE-SW aligned measured 1.90m wide by 0.53m deep with moderately steep sides and uneven base	0.25-0.77m	Enclosure ditch	
604	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular shale	0.44-0.77m	Primary fill of F603	
605	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional subangular shale	0.25-0.44m	Upper fill of F603	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 7		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
701	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.26-0.46m	Agricultural subsoil	
702	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	
F703	Linear feature NW-SE aligned measured 1.83m wide by 0.95m deep with a V-shaped profile	0.46-1.41m	Enclosure ditch	
704	Light yellow grey silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	0.71-1.41m	Primary fill of F703	
705	Light brown grey silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.60-0.95m	Secondary fill of F703	
706	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with abundant subangular pebbles	0.50-0.87m	Tertiary fill of F703	
707	Light brown sandy clay with common subangular pebbles	0.46-0.76m	Upper fill of F703	
F708	Linear feature NW-SE aligned measured 1.79m wide by 1.16m deep with a V-shaped profile	0.46-1.16m	Ditch	
709	Mid yellow grey silty clay with common sub-angular pebbles	0.86-1.16m	Primary fill of F708	
710	Light yellow brown silty clay with common sub-angular pebbles	0.66-1.16m	Secondary fill of F708	
711	Dark yellow brown silty clay with common sub-angular pebbles	0.46-0.96	Upper fill of F708	

Trench 8		Length 40m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
801	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.26-0.37m	Agricultural subsoil	
802	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.37m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 9		Length 40m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
901	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.30-0.46m	Agricultural subsoil	
902	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	
F903	Linear feature NW-SE aligned measured 1.53m wide by 0.40m deep with steep sides and irregular base	0.46-0.86m	Ditch	
904	Mid yellow brown silty clay with common subangular pebbles	0.46-0.86m	Fill of F903	
F905	Linear feature E-W aligned measured 1.94m wide by 0.43m deep with steep sides and irregular and stepped base	0.46-0.89m	Ditch	
906	Mid yellow grey sandy clay with frequent angular pebbles	0.66-0.89m	Primary fill of F905	
907	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular pebbles	0.46-0.80m	Upper fill of F905	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Area 1		Length 16m	Width 8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1000	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.25m	Topsoil	
1001	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.25-0.38m	Agricultural subsoil	
1002	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.38m+	Natural subsoil	
F1003	Linear terminal feature NW-SE aligned measured 2.51m wide by 1.53m deep, with a very steep sides and slightly concave base	0.38-1.53m	Enclosure ditch terminal	
F1004	Linear terminal feature aligned NE-SW and extended into the trench from the northeast. It measured 1.85m wide and 0.74m deep, with steeply sloping sides and undulating base	0.38-0.74m	Enclosure ditch terminal	
1005	Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent poorly sorted sub angular pebbles	0.45-0.74m	Fill of F1004	
1006	Mid yellow brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular pebbles	0.40-0.61m	Fill of F1004	
1007	Mid yellow brown silty clay with common sub angular gravel inclusions	0.38-0.59m	Fill of F1004	
1008	Yellow brown silty sandy clay deposits with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	0.38-0.91m	Fill of F1003	
1009	Yellow brown silty sandy clay deposits with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	0.48-1.09m	Fill of F1003	
1010	Dark brown grey clayey silt with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	0.38-0.79m	Fill of F1003	
F1011	Pit feature irregular in plan measured 3.9m long and 1.89m wide by 0.45m deep with gradual sides and concave base	0.38-0.93m	Pit	
1012	Mid brown red clayey silt with frequent poorly sorted sub angular pebbles	0.38-0.93m	Fill of F1011	
1013	Yellow brown silty sandy clay deposits with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	0.98-1.35m	Fill of F1003	
1014	Yellow brown silty sandy clay deposits with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	1.12-1.53m	Fill of F1003	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Area 2		Length 15m	Width 8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
2000	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.33m	Topsoil	
2001	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.33-0.48m	Agricultural subsoil	
2002	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.48m+	Natural subsoil	
2003	Mid brown red clayey silt with frequent poorly sorted sub angular pebbles	0.48-0.64m	Fill of F2004	
F2004	Pit feature sub-oval in plan measured 0.97m long and 0.62m wide by 0.16m deep with gradual sides and concave base	0.48-0.64m	Pit	
F2005	Linear feature NE-SW aligned measured 2.09m wide and 0.78m deep, with a steep sloping sides and flat base	0.48-1.26m	Enclosure ditch	
2006	Mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional sub angular pebbles	0.88-1.26m	Primary fill of F2005	
2007	Mid brown silty clay with frequent gravel	0.62-1.07m	Secondary fill of F2005	
2008	Light yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel	0.48-0.69m	Upper fill of F2005	
F2009	Linear feature NW-SE aligned measured 1.66m wide and 0.30m deep, with gradual-sloping sides and a flat base.	0.48-0.78m	Gully	
2010	Light yellow brown silty clay with occasional sub angular pebbles	0.48-0.78m	Fill of 2009	
F2011	Pit feature sub-circular in plan measured 0.34m long and 0.30m wide by 0.11m deep with steep sides and concave base	0.48-0.59m	Posthole	
2012	Dark red brown clayey silt with occasional subangular pebbles	0.48-0.59m	Fill of F2011	
F2013	Pit feature suboval in plan measured 0.61m long and 0.34m wide by 0.34m deep with steep sides and concave base	0.48-0.82	Posthole	
2014	Light brown grey sandy clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.48-0.82m	Fill of F2013	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Area 3		Length 11m	Width 8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
3000	Dark brown grey silty clay with rare subangular pebbles	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
3001	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional subangular pebbles	0.26-0.37m	Agricultural subsoil	
3002	Mid yellow brown sandy clay with frequent angular shale inclusions	0.37m+	Natural subsoil	
F3003	Linear terminal feature aligned NE–SW and extended into the trench from the northeast. It measured 1.75m wide and 1.50m deep, with steeply sloping sides and concave base	0.37-1.50m	Enclosure ditch terminal	
3004	Mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	1.18-1.50m	Fill of F3003	
3005	Mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	1.05-1.27m	Fill of F3003	
3006	Mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	0.87-1.10m	Fill of F3003	
3007	Mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate to frequent angular mudstone	0.63-0.90m	Fill of F3003	
3008	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate mudstone	0.37-0.67m	Fill of F3003	
F3009	Linear terminal feature aligned NE–SW and extended into the trench from the northeast. It measured 1.75m wide and 1.45m deep, with steeply sloping sides and undulating base	0.37-1.45m	Enclosure ditch terminal	
3010	Mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent sub rounded gravel inclusions	1.04-1.45m	Fill of F3009	
3011	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded pebbles	0.58-1.04m	Fill of F3009	
3012	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded pebbles	0.37-0.69m	Fill of F3009	

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