

STOVER GOLF COURSE, STOVER, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 8311 7410)

Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
SLR Consulting Ltd

Report No: ACD1667/2/1

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AC archaeology

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The evaluation was commissioned by SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of clients and managed for AC archaeology by John Valentin. The site works were carried out by László Lichtenstein with the assistance of Tom Etheridge and Sean Johnson, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The advice of Arron Carpenter, Devon County Council Engineering Design Group and Helen Smart, Associate Archaeologist, SLR Consulting, is gratefully acknowledged.

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 was undertaken at a proposed extension to Stover Golf Club by AC archaeology during September 2017. The site is located north of Newton Abbot, Devon (NGR SX 8311 7410). The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of fifteen trenches totaling 300m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide. These were positioned to target an earthwork identified during a site walkover, features identified on historic mapping and areas of below-ground impact resulting from the proposed development.

Two archaeological features were revealed in the evaluation trenches. A drainage ditch known from historic mapping which was still visible as a surface feature and a previously unrecorded post-medieval clay quarry pit. The remaining trenches did not contain any archaeological features or deposits, with the targeted features identified during the site walkover and on historic mapping largely corresponding with geological variation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological work, comprising a trench evaluation, was undertaken by AC archaeology during September 2017 in order to provide accompanying information for planning permission for the proposed extension works to replace land taken from Stover Golf Club for the proposed A382 Corridor Improvements Scheme. The site is located north of Newton Abbot, Devon (NGR SX 8311 7410; Fig. 1). The investigation was required by Teignbridge District Council following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team. The archaeological works were commissioned by SLR Consulting on behalf of Devon County Council Engineering Design Group.
- 1.2 The proposed extension to Stover Golf Course lies to the south and west of its existing extent and incorporates an approximately 9.5ha parcel of low-lying level land, which is currently occupied by pasture plots (Plates 1 and 2). It lies at approximately 22m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) and the underlying solid geology across the site is sand, silt and clay of the Bovey Formation overlain on the northwest side by a band of superficial alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An historic environment desk-based assessment has been previously undertaken (SLR Consulting 2016). The assessment established that there was a general potential for buried archaeological remains from the late prehistoric period through to the 20th century to be present.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the work 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 a probable earthwork identified during the site walkover, features identified on historic mapping and areas of below-ground impact resulting from the proposed development. The results of the work, as set out 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 written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological field investigation and a method statement for archaeological field investigation (SLR Consulting 2017; Hughes 2017) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (2014). The work comprised the machine excavation of 15 trenches totaling 300m in length with each trench 1.8m wide. These were positioned to target a possible earthwork and known features from historic mapping and provide sample coverage of other areas.
- 4.2 All trenches were located with a Leica Netrover 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

5.1 Introduction (Fig. 2)

Two of the trenches contained archaeological features and thirteen (Trenches 1-8 and 11-15) had negative results. The trenches containing archaeological features are described in detail below, with descriptions for all trenches presented in tabulated form in Appendix 1. Across the site, the recorded layer sequence comprised a topsoil of mid brownish-grey sandy silt, above a mid greyish-brown silty sand subsoil. The natural subsoil largely comprised mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay. The natural subsoil was present at a depth of between 0.31m and 0.5m below the current ground surface. The majority of the targeted features identified on historic mapping or during the site walkover corresponded with the changing bands of natural geology and ascending ground level. Each of these were investigated and confirmed to be of natural origin. Machine excavated test sondages in trenches 3-5 showed that the natural subsoil was sterile and contained no material of palaeoenvironmental interest (Plates 3-4). A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 5.

5.2 Trench 9 (Detailed plan Fig. 3a and section Fig. 3b)

This trench was located in the south part of the site and was aligned approximately east-west and was 20m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.16m of topsoil (context 900), overlying 0.15m of agricultural subsoil (901). The natural subsoil (902) was therefore present at 0.31m below the ground surface. The trench contained a ditch (F904).

Ditch F904

This was a working drainage channel which measured approximately 1m wide and over 0.31m deep, but was not bottomed. It was partially infilled by natural weathering (903) composed of dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent partially decomposed organic debris and occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions. There were no finds.

5.3 Trench 10 (Detailed plan Fig. 3c and section Fig. 3d; Plates 5-6)

This trench was located in the southwest part of the site and was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was 20m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.30m of topsoil (1000), overlying 0.16m of subsoil (1001). The natural subsoil (1002) was therefore present at 0.46m below the ground surface. The trench contained one pit feature (F1006).

Pit F1006

This was partially revealed in the trench. It was oval in plan with steep sides and concave base and cut subsoil 1001. It contained three fills (1003-1005). Primary fill 1005 was composed of mid greyish-brown clay. Secondary fill 1004 was composed of dark yellowish-brown sandy clay, while upper fill 1003 was composed of dark reddish-brown sandy silt. A single sherd of Totnes ware pottery dating to between c. 1500-1750 was recovered from secondary fill 1004.

6. THE FINDS by Charlotte Coles

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site during the evaluation have been retained and cleaned. The collection of finds comprised two sherds of pottery only and is summarised in Table 1.

Context	Context Description	Post-medieval pottery	
		No	Wt
500	Topsoil, Trench 5	1	44
1004	Fill of pit F1006	1	5
Total		2	49

Table 1: Summary of finds by context (weights in grams)

6.2 Post-medieval pottery

Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. These are a local red ware sherd with a brown glazed handle in an unknown fabric from context 500. The sherd from context 1004 is a body sherd of Totnes ware pottery with an external dark green glaze, this dates from c. 1500-1750AD.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The results of the trial trench evaluation have recorded overwhelmingly negative results. A drainage ditch and a pit were revealed. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no pre-modern finds were present.

7.2 Ditch F904 in Trench 9 corresponded with a feature identified on historic mapping as an enclosure boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1904. The ditch was only partially infilled and was functioning as a drainage ditch on the low lying grazing area.

7.3 Pit F1006 in Trench 10 is likely to represent a post-medieval quarry pit associated with small scale extraction of clay. This feature lies within a wider area that contains a

number of clay quarries, with many of these depicted on early mapping (SLR Consulting 2016). It is therefore likely that this feature is associated with this activity.

- 7.4 In Trench 13, the earthwork identified during the site walkover survey was found to represent a natural linear variation in the geology.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Two archaeological features were revealed in the evaluation trenches. A drainage ditch known from historic mapping which was still visible as a surface feature and a previously unrecorded post-medieval clay quarry pit. The latter forms part of the known small-scale and dispersed clay extraction in the local area during the post-medieval period. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

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 **ACD1667**. 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 a pending temporary reference number, 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 **298256**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. REFERENCES

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

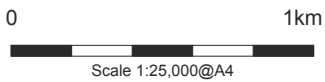
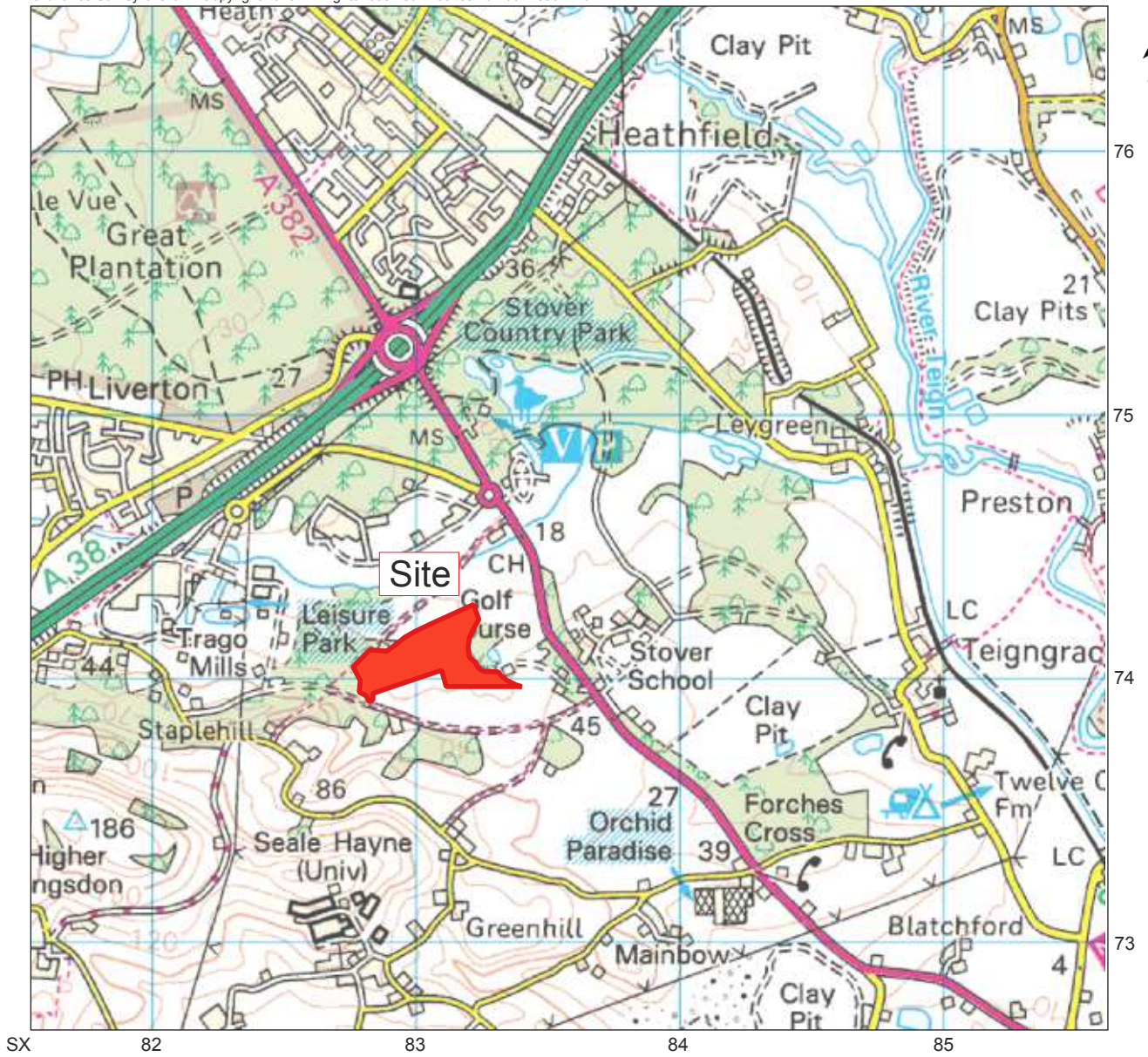
SLR Consulting, 2016, *Stover Golf Course, Stover, Devon: Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment*. Unpublished SLR Consulting document for client, ref. 416-03019-00040

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Hughes, S., 2017, *Stover Golf Course, Stover, Devon: Method statement for archaeological field investigations*. AC archaeology document no. **ACD1667/1/1**.



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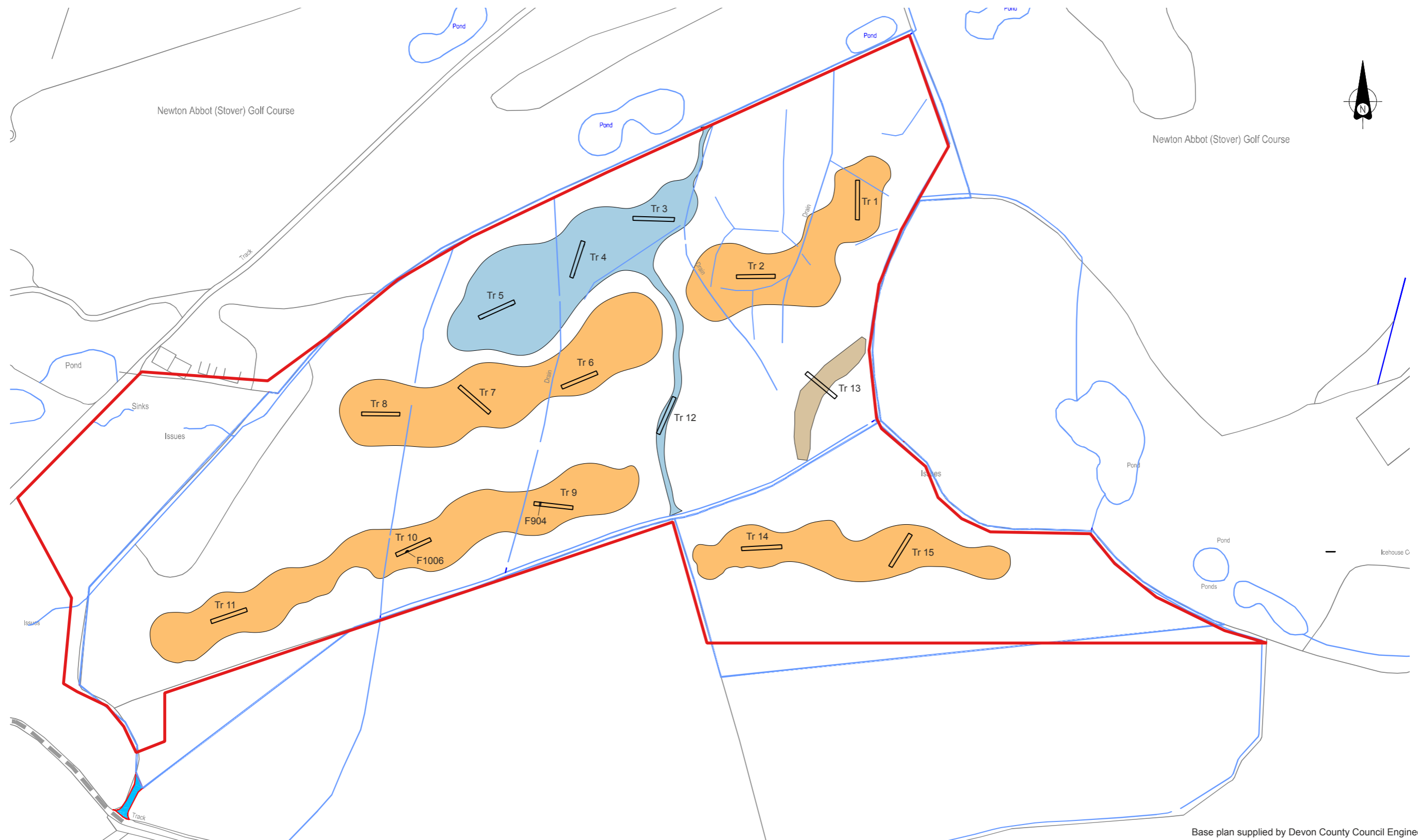


PROJECT

Stover Golf Course, Stover, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location

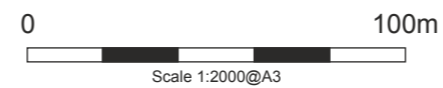



Base plan supplied by Devon County Council Engineering Design Group

LEGEND

- AREA OF PROPOSED GOLF COURSE EXTENSION
- EARTHWORK IDENTIFIED DURING SITE WALKOVER
- PROPOSED POND AREA
- PROPOSED GOLF HOLES IN AREA OF GOLF COURSE EXTENSION

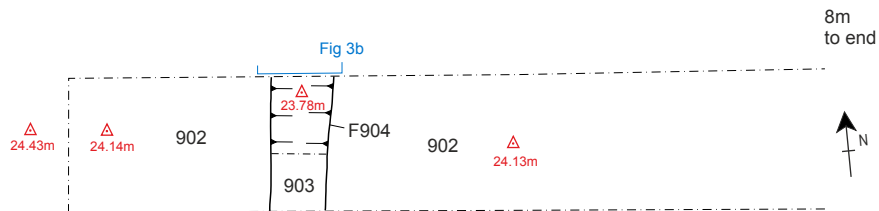
Trenches showing archaeological features identified



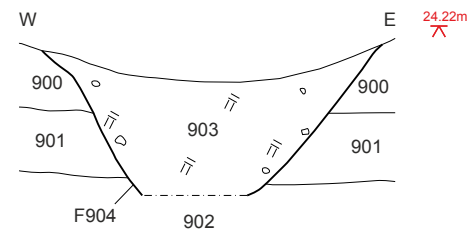

 PROJECT
Stover Golf Course, Stover, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 2: Trench location plan with archaeological features shown

a) Trench 9, plan



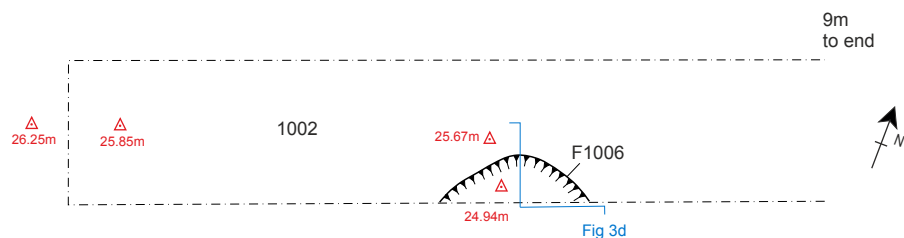
b) Section of ditch F904



Key

- Stones
- Clay

c) Trench 10, plan



d) Section of pit F1006

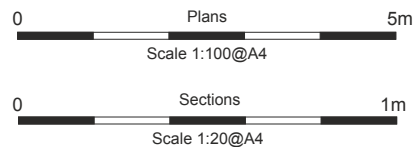
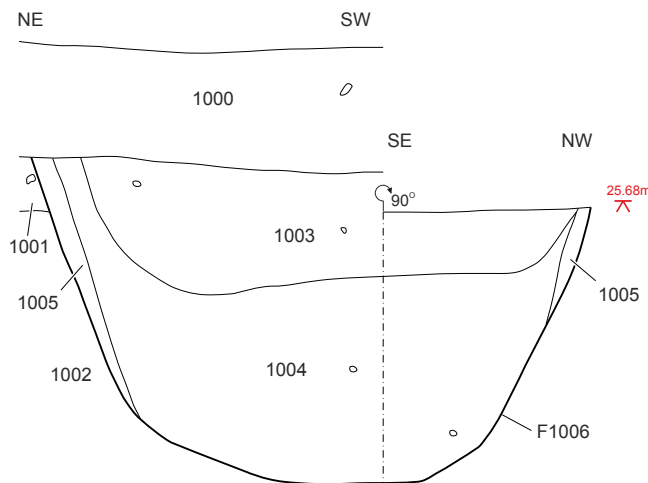




Plate 1: General site view looking west



Plate 2: General site view looking southwest



Plate 3: Test pit at the west end of Trench 3, view to north (scale 2m)



Plate 4: Test pit at the east end of Trench 3, view to south (scale 2m)



Plate 5: Trench 10, pit F1006, view to southwest (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Trench 10, pit F1006, view to southeast (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.13m	Topsoil	
101	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.13-0.34m	Subsoil	
102	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.34m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
201	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.21-0.38m	Subsoil	
202	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.38m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.20m	Topsoil	
301	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.20-0.48m	Subsoil	
302	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.48-0.80m	Natural subsoil	
303	Mid blue to light grey alluvial clay	0.80-2.00	Natural stratum	
304	Mid greyish-blue sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions	2.00m+	Natural stratum	

Trench 4		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.25m	Topsoil	
401	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.25-0.35m	Subsoil	
402	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.35-0.70m	Natural subsoil	
403	Mid blue to light grey alluvial clay	0.70-1.90m	Natural stratum	
404	Mid greyish-blue sandy clay with abundant gravel inclusions	1.90m+	Natural stratum	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 5		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
501	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.30-0.40m	Subsoil	
502	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.40-0.90m	Natural subsoil	
503	Mottled mid greyish-blue to mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions	0.90-1.52m	Natural stratum	
504	Mid blueish-grey to mid yellowish-brown clayey sand	1.52m+	Natural stratum	

Trench 6		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.29m	Topsoil	
601	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.29-0.43m	Subsoil	
602	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.43m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 7		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.27m	Topsoil	
701	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.27-0.50m	Subsoil	
702	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.50m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 8		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.24m	Topsoil	
801	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.24-0.41m	Subsoil	
802	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.41m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 9		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.16m	Topsoil	
901	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.16-0.31m	Subsoil	
902	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.31m+	Natural subsoil	
903	Dark brownish-grey sandy silt with frequent partly decomposed organic debris occasional sub-rounded pebbles	0-0.31m+	Fill of F904	
F904	Linear feature NNE-SSW aligned measured 1.0m wide by 0.31+m deep with broad U-shaped profile	0.31m+	Historic field boundary ditch	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 10		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1000	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
1001	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.30-0.46m	Subsoil	
1002	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	
1003	Dark reddish-brown sandy silt	0.30-0.72m	Fill of F1006	
1004	Dark yellowish-brown sandy clay with common iron oxide accumulations	0.46-0.88m	Fill of F1006	
1005	Mid greyish-brown clay	0.68-0.94m	Fill of F1006	
F1006	Pit feature oval in plan measured 1.88m long and 0.63m+ wide by 0.94m deep with steep sides and concave base	0.68-0.94m	Pit	

Trench 11		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1100	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
1101	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.21-0.34m	Subsoil	
1102	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.34m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 12		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1200	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.19m	Topsoil	
1201	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.19-0.33m	Subsoil	
1202	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.33m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 13		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1300	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.24m	Topsoil	
1301	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.24-0.37m	Subsoil	
1302	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.37m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 14		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1400	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
1401	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.30-0.39m	Agricultural subsoil	
1402	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.39m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 15		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1500	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional rounded pebbles and gravel	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
1501	Mid greyish-brown silty sand with rare sub-rounded pebbles and gravel	0.26-0.39m	Agricultural subsoil	
1502	Mid greyish-brown to light greyish-blue sandy clay soil with frequent iron oxide accumulations ('iron pan') throughout often in rich bands	0.39m+	Natural subsoil	

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