

LAND AT CHALLONSLEIGH FARM, LEE MILL, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 5934 5528)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

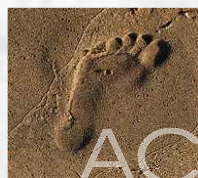
Prepared by:
Paul Rainbird

With contributions from:
John Allan, Naomi Payne
and Henrietta Quinnell

On behalf of:
Dorton Group

Report No: ACD1697/2/1

Date: November 2017



archaeology

LAND AT CHALLONSLEIGH FARM, LEE MILL, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 5956 5538)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

Client	Dorton Group via BSA Heritage
Report Number	ACD1697/2/1
Date	06 November 2017
Status	Revision 1
Report Author	Paul Rainbird
Contributions	John Allan, Naomi Payne and Henrietta Quinnell
Checked by	John Valentin
Approved by	John Valentin

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage on behalf of their clients the Dorton Group and managed for AC archaeology by John Valentin. The site works were carried out by Chris Caine, Paul Cooke, Naomi Kysh and Lexi Scard, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The collaborative role of Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team is duly 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.

CONTENTS

	<i>Summary</i>	
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	2
6.	The finds	5
7.	Discussion	7
8.	Conclusions	8
9.	Archive and OASIS	8
10.	References	8

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site and trenches, with archaeological features shown in relation to the geophysical interpretation
- Fig. 2: Trench 1, plan and sections
- Fig. 3: Trench 3, plan and sections
- Fig. 4: Trenches 5 and 6, plan and sections and Trench 8, section

List of plates

- Plate 1: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 1, looking southeast
- Plate 2: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 3, looking south
- Plate 3: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 12, looking east
- Plate 4: Trench 1, terrace F103 showing burnt layer 105, looking southeast
- Plate 5: Trench 1, terrace F103 showing postholes and stakeholes, looking northeast
- Plate 6: Trench 1, terrace F103 showing postholes and stakeholes, looking northwest
- Plate 7: Trench 1, north facing section of ditch F106
- Plate 8: Location of Trench 3, looking southwest
- Plate 9: Trench 3, wall foundation 304, looking southeast
- Plate 10: Trench 3, northeast facing section of ditch F307
- Plate 11: Trench 3, northeast facing section of ditch F310
- Plate 12: Trench 5, northeast facing section of ditch F503
- Plate 13: Trench 6, north facing section of ditch F604
- Plate 14: Trench 8, northeast facing section of palaeochannel 805
- Plate 15: Trevisker pottery from burnt layer 105, Trench 1. Left: ring/ribbon handled vessel sherd. Right: rim sherd
- Plate 16: Trevisker pottery from colluvial layer 803, Trench 8. Out-turned rim of large vessel with design of incised zig-zags
- Plate 17: Medieval ceramic roofing tile from context 306, fill of robber trench F305, Trench 3

List of tables

- Table 1: Finds quantification by context
- Table 2: Summary of prehistoric pottery by context
- Appendix 1:** Tabulated context descriptions by trench

Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Challonsleigh Farm, Lee Mill, Devon (NGR SX 5956 5538), was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2017. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 14 trenches totalling 694m in length and each 1.8m wide. These were positioned to target anomalies and 'blank' areas from a previous geophysical survey, including a possible settlement-type enclosure in the western part of the site.

The results of the evaluation largely support the geophysical survey interpretation, in that the blank areas contained negative results. A settlement enclosure was indeed present in the western part of the site, with a sub-oval ditch surrounding a scooped terrace for a probable roundhouse. Finds recovered indicate a Middle Bronze Age date for the enclosure. Documentary sources indicated a chapel might lie within or close to the site. A substantial wall footing and associated medieval ridge roof tiles on the western edge of the site look to be the remains of this or another high-status medieval building.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Challonsleigh Farm, Lee Mill, Devon (NGR SX 5956 5538; Fig. 1, Plates 1-3), was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2017. The evaluation was commissioned by BSA Heritage Ltd on behalf of Dorton Group and was required by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team. The archaeological works will provide supporting information for a planning application for a proposed land fill site.
- 1.2 The site covers approximately 10 hectares comprised of four fields labelled Areas 1 to 4. The A38 road is to its north, an access track and the buildings and yards of Challonsleigh Farm lie to the west and to the east are further fields and the River Yealm. A building materials recycling facility and rough pasture fields lie south of the site. The site lies at between c. 60m and 50m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) and slopes down from the north to a level area in the south. The underlying geology is recorded as Middle Devonian Slates sedimentary rock (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeology and heritage assessment (BSA Heritage 2017) and subsequent geophysical survey (Sumo Survey 2017). It is located in an area where the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) records evidence for worked flint found during works on the A38 (ref. MDV14546), an irregular shaped cropmark enclosure of uncertain origin in the centre of the site (MDV37022), while east of Challonsleigh is a 'Chapel Park' field-name and a small building marked on the 1840 Plympton St Mary parish tithe map (MDVs 20333 and 32216).
- 2.2 The geophysical survey by magnetometer technique identified a clear sub-oval enclosure of late prehistoric or Romano-British form, a possible field system and three former boundaries. The cropmark enclosure recorded by the HER (MDV37022) is thought to be a geological variation, while no definitive evidence was found for the chapel (HER refs. MDVs 20333 and 32216). A few uncertain responses were recorded, as were localised geological/pedological variations.

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 confirming the results of and establishing the efficacy of the previous geophysical survey. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation should planning consent be obtained.

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 14 trenches totaling 694m in length and with each 1.8m wide. These were positioned to target anomalies interpreted from the previous geophysical survey as well as apparently 'blank' areas.
- 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

5.1 Introduction

Across the site, the recorded layer sequence comprised a topsoil of reddish-brown and greyish-brown clayey loam, above a mid brownish-red and mid yellowish-brown silty clay and sandy clayey loam agricultural subsoil. The trenches in the east and south of the site also contained a layer of mid yellowish-brown sandy clay colluvium. The natural subsoil was composed of clay in a variety of colours comprising light yellowish-grey, light greyish-yellow and mid bluish-grey. The natural subsoil was present at a depth of between 0.31m and 0.88m below the current ground surface.

5.2 Trench 1 (Plans Figs 2a-c, sections Figs 2d-m; Plates 4-7)

This trench was located in Area 4 in the northwest corner of the site in the position of the enclosure and other discrete anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and was 50m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.2m of topsoil (context 100), overlying 0.14m of agricultural subsoil (101). The trench contained one linear feature (F106), which correlated well with the enclosure ditch anomaly, and a terrace cut (F103) which contained six postholes (F116, F118, F120, F122, F132 and F135) and three stakeholes (F125, F128 and F130).

Terrace cut F103

This was not fully revealed in the trench. The exposed part measured approximately 5m long by 1.5m wide, with a curving northern edge entering the trench from the west and curving to

exit in the southeast. The scarp formed by the north edge was up to 0.4m high. The terrace had three fills (142, 104/141 and 140) and extensive evidence for burning (105). A total of 76 sherds of prehistoric pottery dated to the Bronze Age was recovered from deposits 104/141 and 105. Around the edge, beneath the terrace scarp, were six postholes and two stakeholes.

Postholes F116, F118, F120, F122, F132 and F135

These were circular to oval in shape, measured between 0.2m and 0.4m in diameter and between 0.11m and 0.3m deep. There were no finds from any of these features.

Stakeholes F125, F128 and F130

These were located together amongst the postholes and F130 was located within a hollow measuring 0.5m in diameter. The stakeholes measured between 0.13m and 0.25m in diameter and between 0.06m and 0.11m deep. To the west of F130 was another stakehole (F128) this had an irregular undercutting profile. There were no finds from any of these features.

Ditch F106

This was aligned approximately north-south and measured 1.67m wide by 0.91m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It had three fills (107-9). Primary fill 107 was composed of pale yellowish-brown silty clay. Secondary fill 108 was a mid reddish brown clayey loam, while upper fill 109 was a pale brownish-grey silty clayey loam. There were no finds. Ditch F106 appeared to have been re-cut on the same line by ditch F113. This measured 2.72m wide by 0.9m deep with steep convex sides and a flat base. It had three fills (110-12). Primary fill 110 was composed of mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam, which a pale yellowish-brown silty clay, while upper fill 112 was composed of mid greyish-brown clayey loam. A single sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from fill 110.

5.3 Trench 3 (Plans Figs 3a-b, sections Figs 3c-e; Plates 8-11)

This trench was located in the west part of Area 1 and positioned to test three linear anomalies and a discrete anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately east-west and was 62m long, having been extended westwards. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.21m of topsoil (context 300), overlying 0.17m of agricultural subsoil (301). The trench contained a wall foundation (304) and four linear features (F307, F310, 314 and 315).

Wall foundation 304

Large sandstone blocks (measuring 0.7m x 0.5m x 0.25m to 0.15m x 0.1m x 0.05m) in a mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam matrix were placed in a foundation trench (F303). F303 was a linear feature aligned approximately north-south and measured 1.36m wide by 0.34m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. This was cut by a robber trench (F305) which measured 1.9m wide by 0.28m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base which was filled by demolition rubble (306), which contained 11 pieces of roof tile dated to the late 13th or early 14th centuries and a piece of iron nail.

Ditch F307

This was aligned approximately northwest-southeast measuring 1.76m wide by 0.66m deep with moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base. It contained two fills (308-9). Primary fill 308 was composed of mid brownish-grey silty clayey loam. Upper fill 309 was a mid grey silty clayey loam, which contained two pieces of roof tile dated to the late 13th or early 14th centuries.

Ditch F310

This was aligned approximately north-south, measuring 1.67m wide by 0.79m deep with steep convex sides and a concave base. It contained three fills (311-13). Primary fill 311 was

composed of mid grey silty clayey loam. Secondary fill 312 was a mid brown silty clayey loam, while upper fill 313 was a mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature 314

This was aligned approximately north-south and measured 0.75m wide. It was unexcavated but packed with slate in a mid yellowish-grey silty clay matrix. No finds were recovered.

Linear feature 315

This was aligned approximately north-south and measured 2.1m wide. It was unexcavated. No finds were recovered. Features 314 and 315 probably represent ditches from former hedgebanks.

5.4 Trench 5 (Plan Fig. 4a, sections Fig. 4b; Plate 12)

This trench was located in the central part of Area 1 and positioned to test three linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey, or previously identified from aerial photographs. The trench was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 50m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (context 500), overlying 0.47m of agricultural subsoil (501). The trench contained one linear feature (F503), which correlated closely with an anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F503

This was aligned approximately northeast-southwest and measured 1.4m wide by 0.35m deep, with steep straight sides and a flat base. It contained two fills (504-5). Primary fill 504 was composed of mid yellowish-brown silty clay. Upper fill 505 was a mid reddish-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.5 Trench 6 (Plan Fig. 4c, sections Fig. 4d; Plate 13)

This trench was located in the central part of Area 1 and positioned to test two linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 50m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.25m of topsoil (context 600), overlying 0.2m of agricultural subsoil (601) and 0.42m of colluvium (602). The trench contained one linear feature (F604), which correlated closely with one of the anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch F604

This was aligned approximately north-south, measuring 1.5m wide by 0.67m deep with irregular steep sides and a flat base. It contained three fills (605-7). Primary fill 605 was composed of light reddish-brown sandy clayey loam. Secondary fill 606 was a mid greyish-yellow silty clay, while upper fill 607 was a light yellowish-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.6 Trench 8 (Section Fig. 4e; Plate 14)

This trench was located in the northeast part of Area 1 and positioned to test three linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 48m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.19m of topsoil (context 800), overlying 0.2m of agricultural subsoil (801) and beneath this two layers of colluvium (802 and 803) 0.22m and 0.16m deep, respectively. One piece of prehistoric worked flint and Bronze Age pottery were collected from colluvium 803, while 802 contained one piece of worked flint. The trench contained one linear feature (805), which correlated well with one of the anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

Palaeochannel 805

This was aligned approximately north-south and measured 4m wide by 0.4m deep, with irregular sides and an undulating base. It contained a single fill (806) composed of light brownish-grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS by *Henrietta Quinnell with contributions from John Allan and Naomi Payne*

6.1 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	Worked flint/chert		Prehistoric pottery		Iron		Worked stone		CBM	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
104	Fill of terrace F103			7	82			1	50000		
105	Burnt layer			64	2308						
110	Fill of ditch F113			1	39						
141	Fill of terrace F103			5	75						
306	Demolition rubble					1	8			11	1033
309	Fill of ditch F307									2	5
801	Subsoil					1	2				
802	Colluvium	1	1								
803	Colluvium	1	1	3	330						
Total		2	2	80	2834	2	10	1	50000	13	1038

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

6.2 Worked flint by *Henrietta Quinnell*

Two small pieces were recovered, both from colluvium in Trench 8. One is a small broken blade with usewear, the other part of a bladelet. These are not closely dateable.

6.3 Prehistoric pottery by *Henrietta Quinnell*

80 sherds (2834g) of prehistoric pottery were recovered from five contexts. The assemblage consists entirely of Trevisker ware, which appears to be of gabbroic fabric, made of clay from the Lizard area in Cornwall. The prehistoric pottery is described in Table 2, by context.

Context	Context description	No.	Weight (g)	Comment
104	Fill of terrace F103	7	82	Includes an out-turned rim from a vessel with an incised design
105	Burnt layer	64	2308	Parts of at least three vessels present. One is a ring/ribbon handled vessel with an opposite twist cord-impressed chevron design about the girth: unusual in that the handle appears to morph into a flat girth cordon. The second is thinner and a base sherd retains part of an applied cordon cross. The third has an out-turned rim and an incised design. Two of these sherds, base angle and lower body, have excellent residue (Plate 15)
110	Fill of ditch F113	1	39	Out-turned rim with design of horizontal impressed cord, opposite twist
141	Fill of terrace F103	5	75	Plain body sherds
803	Colluvium	3	330	Out-turned rim of large vessel with design of incised zig-zags (Plate 16)
Total		80	2834	

Table 2: Summary of prehistoric pottery by context

The nearest site with sherds of comparable type is Langage approximately 1.3km to the northwest, where gabbroic sherds of Trevisker type were associated with a roundhouse, with C14 (radiocarbon) dates from the 15th and 14th centuries BC (Quinnell 2011). Here a few sherds indicated that gabbroic clay had been brought to Devon and mixed with other materials. There are also assemblages with Trevisker material from Staddon Heights and Plymstock Quarry, containing some gabbroic sherds, not fully published but with radiocarbon dates (Quinnell 2011, 87-8); at both of these sites some gabbroic sherds contain probable local materials mixed in. The current excavations at Sherford 4km to the south are also producing substantial Trevisker assemblages from apparent Middle Bronze Age contexts (information Alistair Barclay, Wessex Archaeology).

The only other Trevisker vessel with a ring or ribbon handle known from Devon is the gabbroic vessel with funerary associations from the probably flat cemetery site c. 6m to the southwest at Elburton, although this is likely to date a little earlier than this assemblage. Woodward and Cane, in their report on the Trethellan Farm, Newquay, assemblage (1991), give a persuasive argument for such vessels not dating beyond the middle of the Middle Bronze Age, that is probably not later than c. 1300 cal BC.

Overall this assemblage suggests a very 'Cornish' style of Trevisker ceramics, which is probably supported by the other assemblages from the area, and a little different to the styles of Trevisker-related material found further east, especially in the Exeter area (Quinnell 2012). The mixture of cord impressed and incised decoration is typical of Trevisker assemblages: this material would not look out of place in the classic Cornish site of Trethellan Farm, Newquay (Woodward and Cane 1991).

6.4 Iron by Naomi Payne

Two iron fragments were recovered from two separate contexts. The fragment from demolition deposit 306 is an incomplete nail. The other finds from this context suggest that it is medieval in date. The second fragment is from the subsoil in Trench 8. It is a small L-shaped fragment with a broadly D-shaped profile and at least one broken end. It could be from a buckle, but cannot be identified with any certainty.

6.5 Worked stone by Henrietta Quinnell

A large piece of moorland granite was found from context 104, fill of terrace F103. This measures 450mm by 410mm by 120mm and weighs approximately 50 kilograms. This was obviously brought down from Dartmoor and was probably levered off a moorland surface. One side is apparently artificially flat, possibly an intended saddle quern. The breakage of this stone was possibly deliberate. The presence of substantial items of corn processing material is not uncommon on Middle Bronze Age sites in the South West, for example Trethellan, Newquay (Nowakowski 1991).

6.6 Ceramic building material (CBM) by John Allan

A total of 13 fragments (1038g) of ceramic ridge roofing tile was recovered from two contexts. The majority of the pieces, which are large and unabraded, come from demolition layer 306 (Plate 17). All the roof tile pieces are in a granite-derived fabric with a thin slip. They date from the late 13th or early 14th century. These fragments strongly suggest that a medieval stone building with a substantial roof was once present on the site.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1** The results from the evaluation largely support the geophysical survey interpretation, in that the 'blank' areas were largely negative with, in particular, no features or finds from Areas 2 and 3. The ditches in Trenches 5 and 6 are undated; F503 in Trench 5 appears to be part of a field system pre-dating the historic field pattern and was partly revealed in the interpreted results of the geophysical survey, while F604 in Trench 6 has the character of a field drain and is probably much more recent in date. A linear anomaly in Trench 8 was shown to be a natural palaeochannel. Of particular interest is the enclosure and related settlement of Middle Bronze Age date in Trench 1 and the wall footing and roof tile from a medieval wall footing in Trench 3.
- 7.2** The clear sub-oval enclosure in Area 4, originally thought to be of late prehistoric or Romano-British form interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey, has been shown to be formed by a steep-sided and flat-bottomed ditch enclosing a terrace for a probable post and stake-built roundhouse of Middle Bronze Age date. The post and stakeholes were present within the cut for the terrace, which also contained some evidence for burning in the form of fired clay and heat-affected natural clays. The roundhouse has an extrapolated diameter of 11m. No other internal or associated features were present. Some further pottery of Bronze Age date was recovered from colluvium in Trench 8. These sherds were not associated with archaeological features and have probably been displaced from elsewhere, probably upslope to the north.
- 7.3** No sites of Bronze Age date have previously been identified in the immediate environs of the site, but at Langage, located 1.8km to the west, settlement of Bronze Age date has been excavated (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011, 86; HER ref MDV116827). A short distance to the north, on Dartmoor, stone built roundhouses of Bronze Age date are well-known and these have internal diameters in a range from c. 2m up to 14m, although the latter size is rare (Newman 2011). A recently excavated Middle Bronze Age stone roundhouse at Teigncombe, on the east side of Dartmoor, was built on an artificial terrace measuring approximately 14m in diameter and up to 1.6m deep on its upslope side (Gerrard 2016).
- 7.4** Wall footing 304 in Trench 3 was not identified by the geophysical survey and there was no evidence for a parallel wall identified in the trench. It is probable that the wall footing, at 1.36m wide, was placed to hold a substantial structure and the ridge tiles within the fill of the robber trench were of a type that would have adorned a high-status building of medieval date. Challonsleigh is in the parish of Plympton St Mary and was a Domesday Manor (HER ref. MDV16923). The current buildings of Challonsleigh bear little relationship to the ones shown on the parish tithe map of 1841, which appear to have been removed before 1887, as they are not present on the first-edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map. This includes the building to the east of the farm in the field named 'Chapel Park' which, if mapped correctly on the tithe map, is located outside and just to the west of the location of Trench 3 (see Fig. 1).
- 7.5** The tithe map building is L-shaped and has the character of a field barn. It is not clear why a chapel would have been located in Chapel Park, as a private chapel belonging to Challonsleigh Manor would most probably have been located closer to the house. There is documentary evidence that, following authority from Bishop Grandisson in 1332, Sir Ralph and Peter de Challons were re-interred 'near the church'. However, it is not clear if this was at Challonsleigh or at Plympton (Ben Stephenson pers. comm.).
- 7.6** The remaining linear features uncovered in Trench 3 have a generally north to south trending alignment which corresponds with the historic field pattern, although they do not match former field boundaries on historic mapping, while the linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey indicate that they may relate to an earlier pattern of fields; there was no direct correlation between the features uncovered and the anomalies. The Devon Historic

Landscape Characterisation Project maps the current field pattern as post-medieval in date, indicating that any prior pattern of fields is post-medieval or earlier in date (DCC 2017).

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation largely confirmed the results of the geophysical survey in that the 'blank' areas produced negative results and, in particular, no finds or features were found in Areas 2 and 3. Of particular interest is the enclosure and related settlement use of Middle Bronze Age date in Trench 1 and a wall footing and finds from a likely high-status medieval building in Trench 3.
- 8.2 Evidence for prehistoric occupation on the site was identified in Trench 1 where an enclosure surrounding a scooped terrace for a probable roundhouse of Bronze Age date was uncovered. Some tantalising, but unsubstantiated, evidence in the form of a wall footing and medieval roof tiles was found in Trench 3 to support the possibility that a medieval chapel or other high-status building was formerly located in the area of the trench.
- 8.3 The evaluation has shown that main archaeological interest in the site are the Bronze Age and medieval features located in Areas 1 and 4 and at the far west and northwest parts of the proposed development. Elsewhere, only limited evidence for archaeological activity was identified.

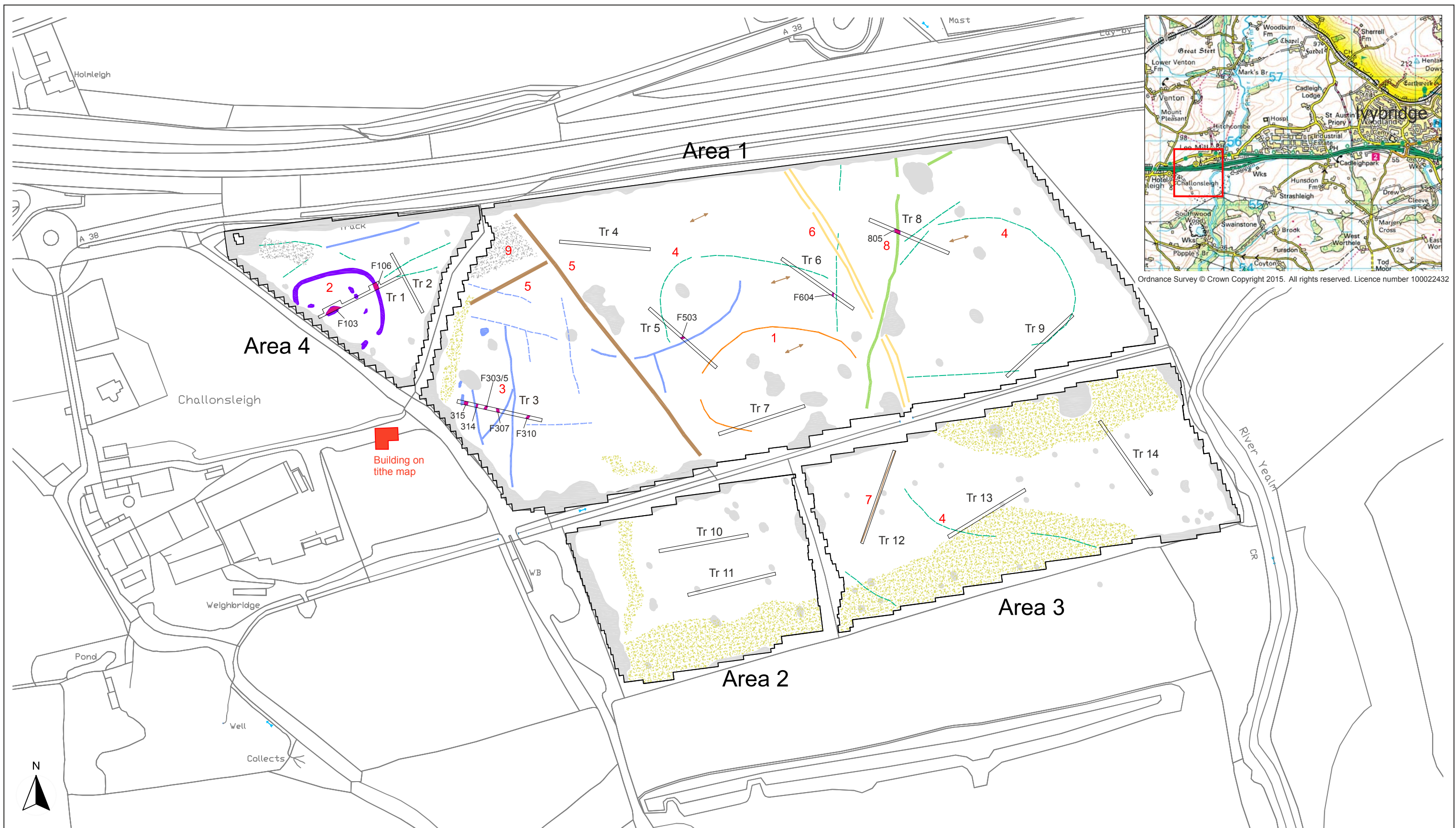
9. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 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 **ACD1697** and under the accession number **PLYMG.2017.32** received from Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery. It will be held until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established.
- 9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **299499**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. REFERENCES

- BGS, 2017, *British Geological Survey Geology of Britain On-line Viewer* (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- BSA Heritage Ltd, 2017, *Land at Challonsleigh Farm, near Plymouth, Devon: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment*. Unpublished report for client, ref. **BSA 1687_1a**.
- DCC, 2017, *Devon Historic Environment Viewer* (<http://map.devon.gov.uk/DCCviewer>)
- Gerrard, S., 2016, 'Archaeology and bracken: the Teigncombe prehistoric roundhouse excavation 1999-2005', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **74**, 1-63.
- Newman, P., 2011, *The Field Archaeology of Dartmoor* (London: English Heritage).
- Nowakowski, J.A., 1991, 'Trethellan Farm, Newquay: the excavation of a lowland Bronze Age settlement and Iron Age cemetery', *Cornish Archaeology* **30**, 5-242.
- Orme, N., 1996, 'Church and chapel in medieval England', *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* **6**, 75-102.
- Quinnell, H., 2011, 'The pottery', in J. Salvatore and H. Quinnell, 'Excavation of a Bronze Age Roundhouse and other prehistoric, Romano-British and early Medieval features at the Langage Energy Centre and Park, and the Choakford-Langage pipeline, Sparkwell, South Hams', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **69**, 76-82.

- Quinnell, H., 2012, 'Trevisker Pottery; Some Recent Studies', in W. Britnell and R.J. Silvester (eds) *Reflections on the Past. Essays in honour of Frances Lynch*. Cambrian Archaeological Association.
- Salvatore, J.P. and Quinnell, H., 2011, 'Excavations of a Bronze Age roundhouse and other prehistoric, Romano-British and early medieval features at the Langage Energy Park, and the Choakford-Langage Pipeline, Sparkwell, South Hams', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **68**, 53-93.
- Sumo Survey, 2017, *Geophysical Survey Report, Challonsleigh, Lee Mill, Devon*. Unpublished report for client, ref. **11619**.
- Valentin, J., 2017, *Land at Challonsleigh Farm, Lee Mill, Devon: Project Design for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology document, ref. **ACD1697/1/1**.
- Watts, M.A. and Quinnell, H., 2001, 'A Bronze Age Cemetery at Elburton, Plymouth', *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society* **59**, 11–43.
- Woodward, A. and Cane, C. 1991, 'The Bronze Age pottery', in J. Nowakowski, 'Trethellan Farm, Newquay: the excavation of a lowland Bronze Age settlement and Iron Age cemetery', *Cornish Archaeology* **30**, 103-31.



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

KEY

	Previously Suggested Archaeology - HER Record 37022		Former Field Boundary / Path (corroborated / conjectural)
	Probable Archaeology		Uncertain Origin (trend)
	Possible Archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)		Ploughing
	?Natural (zone / discrete or igneous dyke)		Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance

Trenches with archaeological features identified


0 100m
Scale 1:2000@A3



PROJECT
Land at Challonsleigh Farm, Lee Mill, Devon






TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site and trenches, with archaeological features shown in relation to the geophysical interpretation

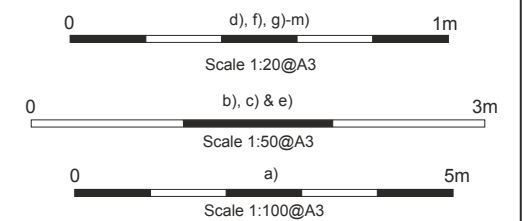
d) Section of terrace cut F103



Geological cross-section of terrace cut F103. The section shows a series of terraces and a river channel. Key features include: a 90-degree orientation marker (W-S) at the top center; a red elevation marker '63.48m' at the top right; a dashed line indicating a break in the section; and labels for specific features: F116, 105, 102, 104, 105, F103, and N. The section is labeled 'E' on the left and 'N' on the right. The river channel is shown at the bottom, with a dashed line indicating a break in the section.

j) Section through the study area

	Stones and shale
	Quartz
	Charcoal
	Fired clay
	Heat affected natural

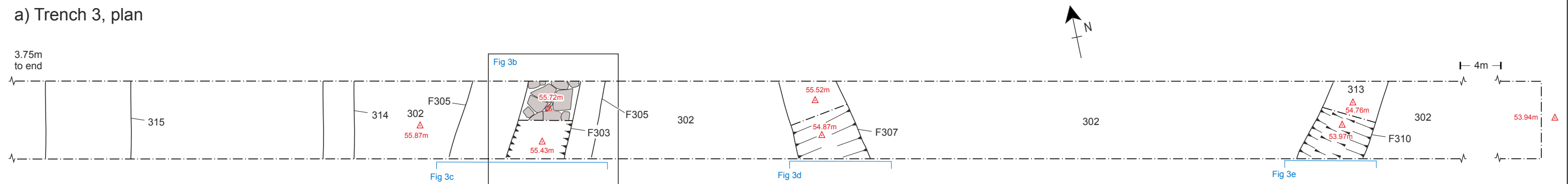


Land at Challonsleigh Farm,
Lee Mill, Devon

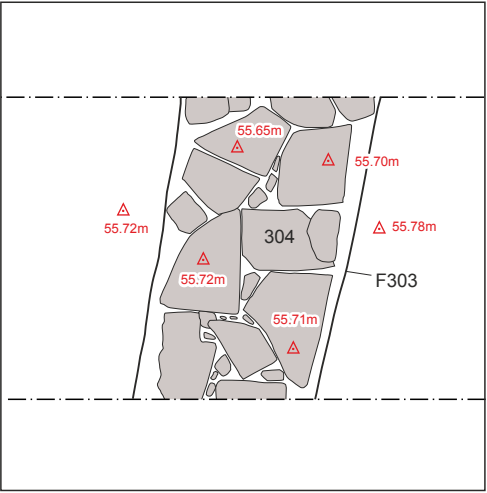
Fig. 2: Trench 1, plans and sections



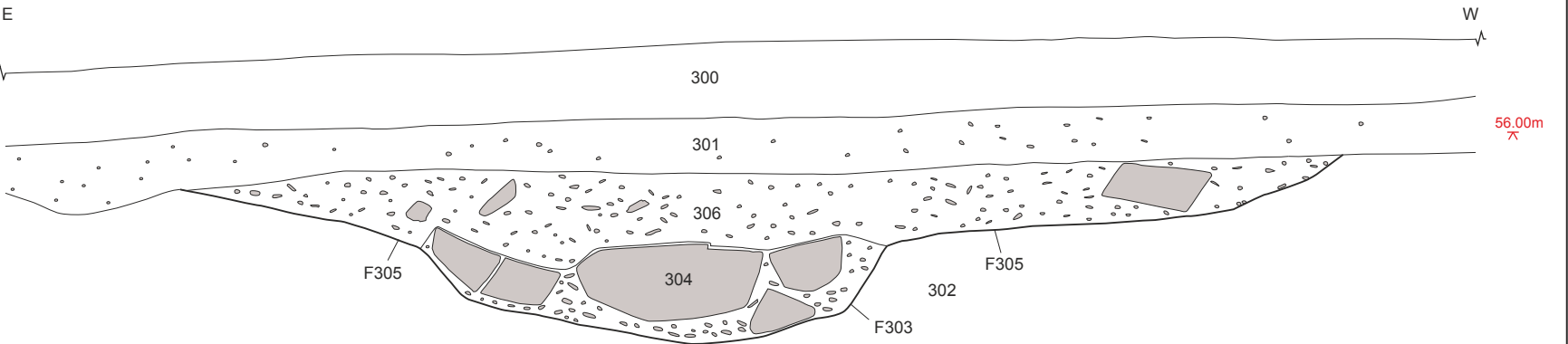
a) Trench 3, plan



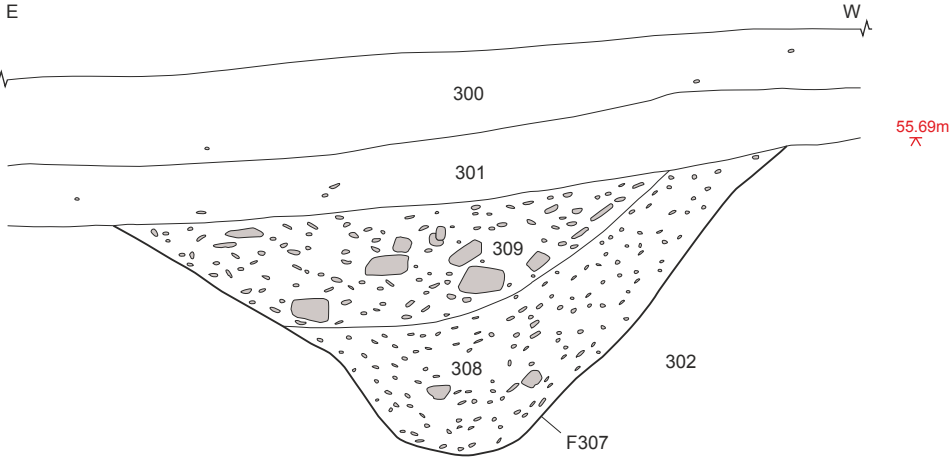
b) Detailed plan of wall footing 304



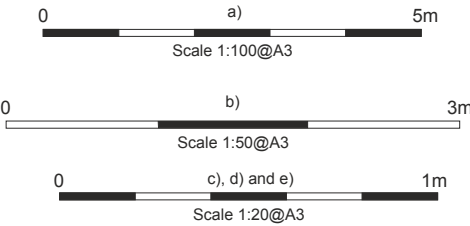
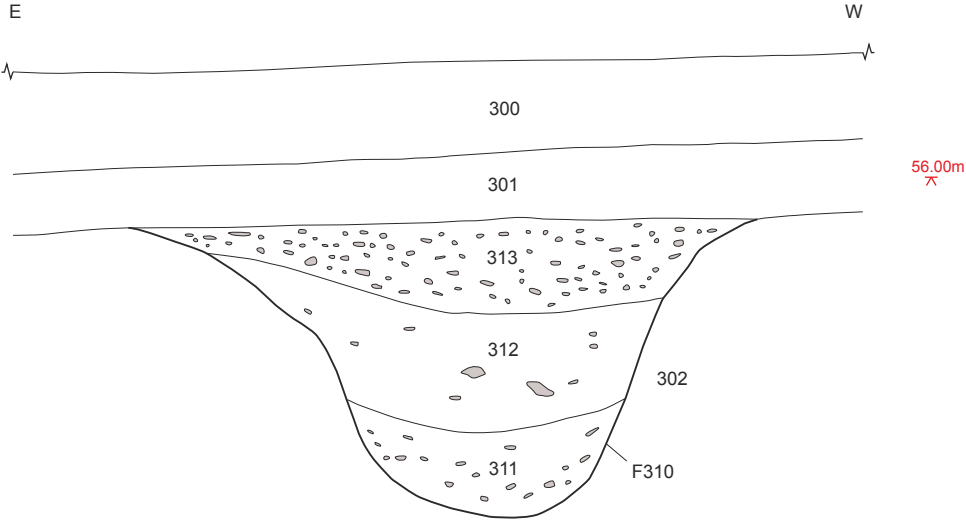
c) Section of ditch F303



d) Section of ditch F307



e) Section of ditch F310

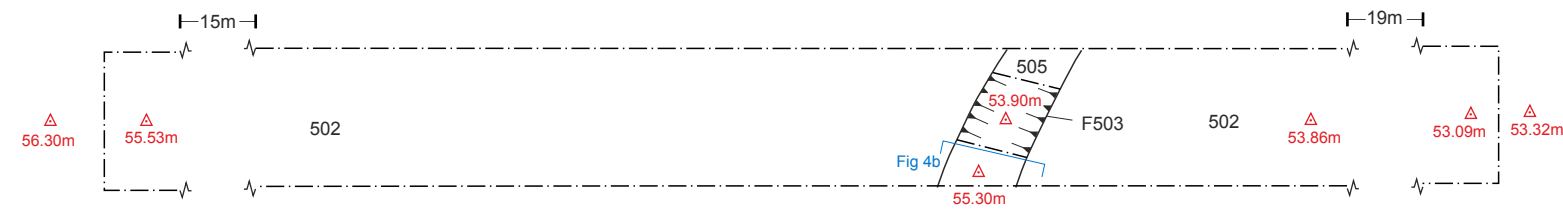


PROJECT
Land at Challonsleigh Farm,
Lee Mill, Devon

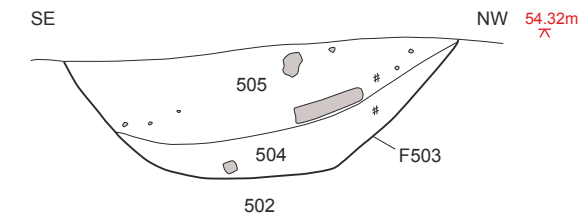
TITLE
Fig. 3: Trench 3, plan and
sections



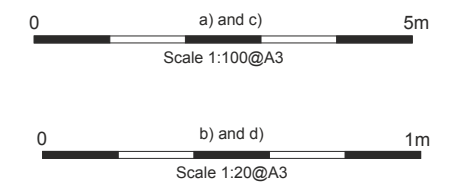
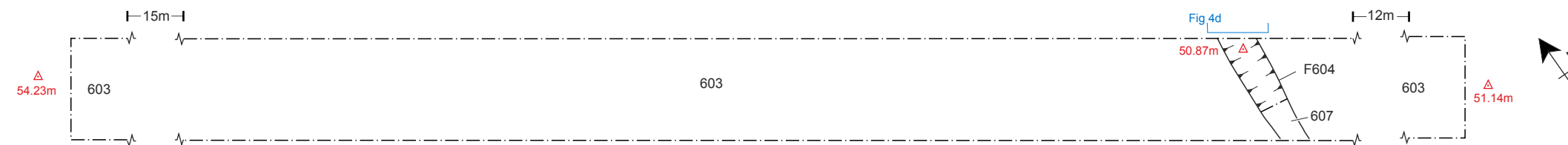
a) Trench 5, plan



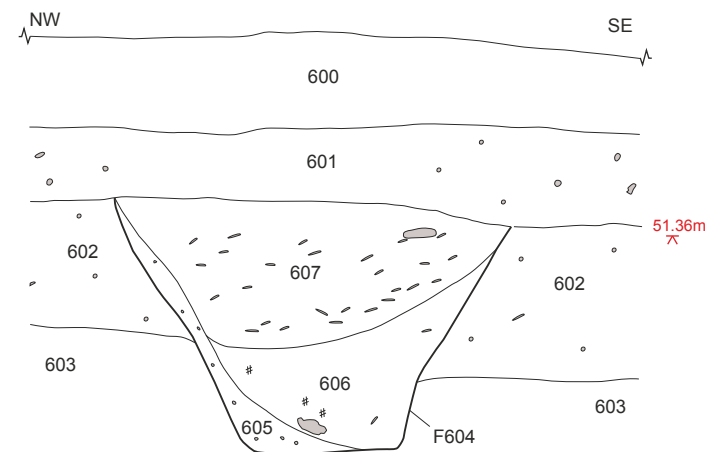
b) Section of ditch F503



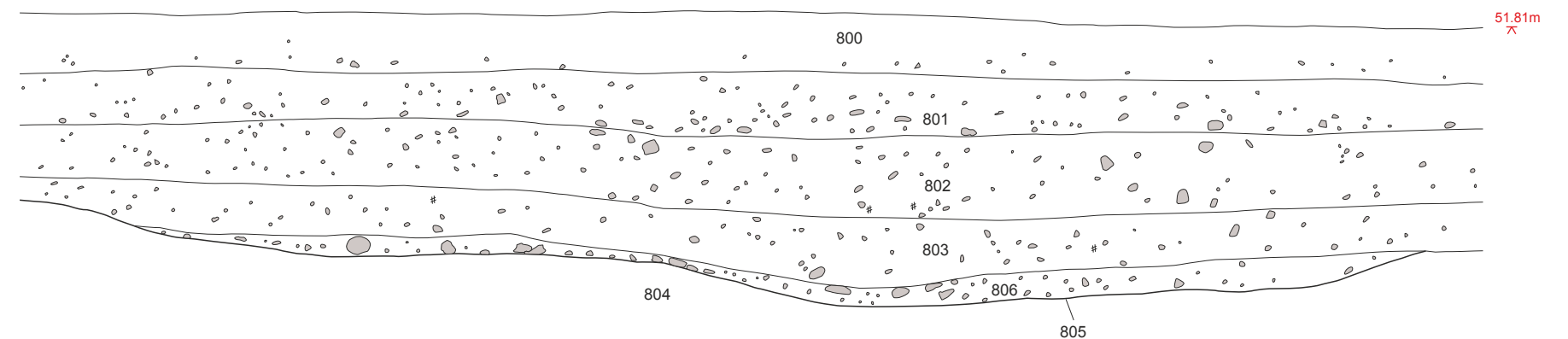
c) Trench 6, plan



d) Section of ditch F604



e) Section of palaeochannel 805



PROJECT
Land at Challonsleigh Farm,
Lee Mill, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 4: Trenches 5 and 6, plans
and sections and Trench 8,
section





Plate 1: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 1, looking southeast



Plate 2: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 3, looking south



Plate 3: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 12, looking east



Plate 4: Trench 1, terrace F103 showing burnt layer 105, looking southeast (1m scale)



Plate 5: Trench 1, terrace F103 showing postholes and stakeholes, looking northeast (0.5m scale)



Plate 6: Trench 1, terrace F103 showing postholes and stakeholes, looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 1, north facing section of ditch F106 (1m scale)



Plate 8: Location of Trench 3, looking southwest



Plate 9: Trench 3, wall foundation 304, looking southeast (1m scale)



Plate 10: Trench 3, northeast facing section of ditch F307 (1m scale)



Plate 11: Trench 3, northeast facing section of ditch F310 (1m scale)



Plate 12: Trench 5, northeast facing section of ditch F503 (1m scale)



Plate 13: Trench 6, north facing section of ditch F604 (0.5m scale)



Plate 14: Trench 8, northeast facing section of palaeochannel 805 (1m scale)



Plate 15: Trevisker pottery from burnt layer 105, Trench 1. Left: ring/ribbon handled vessel sherd. Right: rim sherd



Plate 16: Trevisker pottery from colluvial layer 803, Trench 8. Out-turned rim of large vessel with design of incised zig-zags



Plate 17: Medieval ceramic roofing tile from context 306, fill of robber trench F305, Trench 3

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid reddish-brown silty loam	0-0.2m	Topsoil	
101	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.2-0.34m	Subsoil	
102	Light yellowish-grey/light greyish-yellow clay	0.56m+	Natural subsoil	
F103	The part exposed in the trench measured approximately 5m long by 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep on the northern edge	0.56-0.76m	Cut of terrace	
104	Dark greyish-brown silty clayey loam	0.34-0.5m	Fill of terrace	
105	Burnt soil	0.5-0.6m	Abandonment layer	
F106	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 1.67m wide by 0.91m deep with steep convex sides and a flat base	0.86-1.77m	Enclosure ditch	
107	Pale yellowish-brown silty clay	1.07-1.77m	Primary fill of F106	
108	Mid reddish-brown clayey loam	1.50-1.75m	Secondary fill of F106	
109	Pale brownish-grey silty clayey loam	1.40-1.73m	Upper fill of F106	
110	Mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam	0.90-1.75m	Primary fill of F113	
111	Pale yellowish-brown silty clay	0.86-1.41m	Secondary fill of F113	
112	Mid greyish-brown clayey loam	0.86-1.01m	Upper fill of F113	
F113	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 2.72m wide by 0.9m deep with steep convex sides and a flat base	0.86-1.75m	?re-cut of enclosure ditch	
F116	Only partially revealed in the trench with a projected diameter of 0.26m	0.76-1.02m	Posthole	
117	Mid brown silty clayey loam	0.76-1.02m	Fill of F116	
F118	0.33m long by 0.25m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a flat base	0.76-1.06m	Posthole	
119	Mid brown silty clayey loam	0.76-1.06m	Fill of F118	
F120	0.2m in diameter and 0.11m deep with steep sides and a flat base	0.76-0.87m	Posthole	
121	Mid brown silty clayey loam	0.76-0.87m	Fill of F120	
F122	0.23m in diameter by 0.11m deep with steep sides and a flat base	0.76-0.87m	Posthole	
123	Mid reddish-brown silty clayey loam	0.78-0.87m	Lower fill of F122	
124	Mid brown silty clayey loam	0.76-0.82m	Upper fill of F122	
F125	0.13m x 0.07m deep with a V-shaped profile	0.76-0.83m	Stakehole	
126	Charcoal-rich material	0.80-0.83m	Lower fill of F125	
127	Mid yellowish-brown silty loam	0.76-0.80m	Upper fill of F125	
F128	0.23m long by 0.11m wide and 0.12m deep with irregular sides and a pointed base	0.76-0.88m	Animal burrow or root hollow?	
129	Mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam	0.76-0.88m	Fill of F128	
F130	0.25m x 0.12m deep with a V-shaped profile	0.76-0.88m	Stakehole	
131	Mid yellowish-brown silty loam	0.76-0.88m	Fill of F130	
F132	0.4m in diameter by 0.2m deep with a vertical north side and a stepped south side and a flat base	0.76-0.96m	Posthole	
133	Charcoal-rich material	0.76-0.96m	Upper fill of F132	
134	Dark yellowish-brown silty loam	0.76-0.96m	Primary fill of F132	
139	Mid yellowish-brown silty loam	0.34-0.56m	Subsoil	
140	Mid brownish-yellow silty clay	0.5-0.71m	Upper fill of F103	
141	Dark greyish-brown silty clayey loam	0.7-0.98m+	Same as 104	
142	Mid reddish-brown silty clayey loam	0.74-0.96m+	Primary fill of F103	
143	Pale yellowish-brown silty clayey loam	0.56-0.8m	Subsoil cut by F103	

Trench 2		Length 34m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid reddish-brown silty loam	0-0.57m	Topsoil	
201	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.57-0.84m	Subsoil	
202	Light yellowish-grey/light greyish-yellow clay	0.84m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 3		Length 62m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid reddish-brown silty loam	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
301	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.21-0.38m	Subsoil	
302	Light yellowish-grey/light greyish-yellow clay	0.38m+	Natural subsoil	
F303	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 1.36m wide by 0.34m deep with steep sides and a concave base	0.38-0.72m	Foundation trench	
304	Large sandstone blocks (0.7m x 0.5m x 0.25m to 0.15m x 0.1m x 0.05m) in a mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam matrix	0.38-0.72m	Stone footings	
F305	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 1.9m wide by 0.28m deep with shallowly sloping sides and a flat base	0.38-0.66m	Robber trench	
306	Mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam	0.38-0.66m	Demolition rubble	
F307	Linear feature aligned approximately northwest-southeast measuring 1.76m wide by 0.66m deep with moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base	0.38-1.04m	Boundary ditch	
308	Mid brownish-grey silty clayey loam	0.38-1.04m	Primary fill of F307	
309	Mid grey silty clayey loam	0.38-0.68m	Upper fill of F307	
F310	Linear feature aligned approximately north-south measuring 1.67m wide by 0.79m deep with steep convex sides and a concave base	0.38-1.17m	Boundary ditch	
311	Mid grey silty clayey loam	0.86-1.17m	Primary fill of F310	
312	Mid brown silty clayey loam	0.45-0.97m	Secondary fill of F310	
313	Mid greyish-brown silty clayey loam	0.38-0.63m	Upper fill of F310	
314	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 0.75m wide. Unexcavated but packed with slate in a mid yellowish-grey silty clay matrix	0.48m+	?Ditch	
315	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 2.1m wide. Unexcavated	0.48m+	?Ditch	

Trench 4		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid reddish-brown silty loam	0-0.17m	Topsoil	
401	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.17-0.31m	Subsoil	
402	Light yellowish-grey/light greyish-yellow clay	0.31m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 5		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.25m	Topsoil	
501	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.25-0.72m	Subsoil	
502	Light yellowish-grey/light greyish-yellow clay	0.72m+	Natural subsoil	
F503	Linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW measuring 1.4m wide by 0.35m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base	0.72-1.07m	Ditch	
504	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.93-1.07m	Primary fill of F503	
505	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.72-0.97m	Upper fill of F503	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 6		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.25m	Topsoil	
601	Mid greyish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.25-0.45m	Subsoil	
602	Light brownish-yellow clayey silty loam	0.45-0.88m	Colluvium	
603	Mid bluish-grey clay	0.88m+	Natural subsoil	
F604	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 1.5m wide by 0.67m deep with irregular steep sides and a flat base	0.88-1.55m	Ditch	
605	Light reddish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.88-1.55m	Primary fill of F604	
606	Mid greyish-yellow silty clay	1.03-1.55m	Secondary fill of F604	
607	Light yellowish-brown silty clay	0.88-1.27m	Upper fill of F604	

Trench 7		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.19m	Topsoil	
701	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.19-0.38m	Subsoil	
702	Light bluish-grey clay	0.38m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 8		Length 48m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Mid greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.19m	Topsoil	
801	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.19-0.39m	Subsoil	
802	Mid yellowish-grey silty clayey loam	0.39-0.61m	Colluvium	
803	Mid brownish-grey silty clayey loam	0.61-0.77m	Colluvium	
804	Light bluish-grey clay	0.77m+	Natural subsoil	
805	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 4m wide by 0.4m deep with irregular sides and an undulating base	0.77-1.17m	Palaeochannel	
806	Light brownish-grey silty clay	0.77-1.17m	Fill of 805	

Trench 9		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Mid greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.20m	Topsoil	
901	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.20-0.43m	Subsoil	
902	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay	0.43-0.62m	Colluvium	
903	Light bluish-grey clay	0.62m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 10		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1000	Dark greyish-brown loam	0-0.27m	Topsoil	
1001	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.27-0.47m	Subsoil	
1002	Dark yellowish-brown clayey silt	0.47-0.73m	Colluvium	
1003	Mid yellowish-grey clay	0.73m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 11		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1100	Dark greyish-brown loam	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
1101	Mid yellowish-brown silty clay	0.32-0.63m	Subsoil	
1102	Dark yellowish-brown clayey silt	0.63-0.79m	Colluvium	
1103	Mid yellowish-grey clay	0.79m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 12		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1200	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
1201	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.21-0.39m	Subsoil	
1202	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay	0.39-0.72m	Colluvium	
1203	Light bluish-grey clay	0.72m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 13		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1300	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.24m	Topsoil	
1301	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.24-0.44m	Subsoil	
1302	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay	0.44-0.68m	Colluvium	
1303	Light bluish-grey clay	0.68m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 14		Length 50m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1400	Dark greyish-brown clayey loam	0-0.2m	Topsoil	
1401	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clayey loam	0.2-0.42m	Subsoil	
1402	Mid yellowish-brown sandy clay	0.42-0.72m	Colluvium	
1403	Light bluish-grey clay	0.72m+	Natural subsoil	

Devon Office

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

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk