

# LAND AT CHAPEL DOWNS FARM, CREDITON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 8206 0089)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Outline Planning Reference: 17/01511/MOUT Mid Devon  
District Council

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On behalf of:  
BDW Exeter

Report No: ACD1410/2/0

Date: November 2017



archaeology

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Outline Planning ref. 17/01511/MOUT Mid Devon District Council

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Checked by	John Valentin
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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 at Chapel Downs Farm, Crediton, Devon (NGR SS 8206 0089), was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2017. The evaluation consisted of the machine-excavation of 17 trenches totalling 474m in length, with each 1.8m wide. These were positioned mainly to target anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey, including what was thought to be a large circular settlement enclosure in the centre of the site.*

*Evidence for Romano-British occupation on the site was identified and comprised a ditched circular enclosure containing two platforms cut into the hillside, which may represent the position of internal buildings. To the east of the enclosure, evidence for further Romano-British settlement was revealed in the form of a ring gully which may be the position of a former roundhouse. Other features were undated, but appear to relate to agricultural activities in the form of now-infilled former field boundary and drainage ditches. A collection of finds was recovered, including Romano-British pottery, a piece of roof tile, one sherd of prehistoric pottery, burnt bone and post-medieval pottery and glass. Assessment of environmental samples found that there is potential for the survival of environmental remains relating to Romano-British settlement in the form of charred grains, occasional cereal chaff and poorly-preserved charred plant macrofossils.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Chapel Downs Farm, Crediton, Devon (NGR SS 8206 0089; Fig. 1), was undertaken by AC archaeology during October 2017. The evaluation was commissioned by BDW Exeter and was required by Mid Devon District Council as supporting information for a planning application for residential development, as advised by the Devon Historic Environment Team. The proposed new development will comprise the erection of up to 120 dwellings, public open space, vehicular access and associated infrastructure.
- 1.2 The application area is located within the parish of Crediton. Higher Road, which forms the northern extent, is the historic parish boundary between Crediton and Sandford. It covers an area of approximately 7 hectares and comprises the majority of one large agricultural field and one smaller one (Plates 1-3). The application area is situated on agricultural land which slopes gradually down to the south between 138m and 83m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the underlying solid geology comprising Permian Breccia of the Crediton Breccia Formation. There are no superficial deposits recorded ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Costen *et al.* 2017) and geophysical survey (Dean 2016). The assessment established that the main archaeological interest to the site is a circular cropmark enclosure of probable late prehistoric date recorded on historic air photographs.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey identified 35 magnetic anomaly groups indicating that archaeological deposits survive within the site. These include the circular enclosure known from air photographic evidence, as well as a series of adjacent anomaly groups, some of which could relate to this enclosure. These comprise former field boundaries as depicted on historic maps, linear anomalies of unconfirmed origin and likely former field boundaries of unknown date, but pre-dating the parish tithe map of 1839.

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The main aim of the work was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character, level of survival and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site, with particular reference to the circular enclosure and 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 with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and the DCHET document *Specification for Field Evaluation*. It comprised the machine-excavation of 17 trenches totaling 474m in length and with each 1.8m wide. These were positioned to target anomalies interpreted from the previous geophysical survey as well as what were thought to be '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

Six of the trenches contained archaeological features and eleven (Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16) 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 dark brown silty loam, which was generally directly overlying natural subsoil, except in a few circumstances where subsoil and colluvium was present in natural hollows. The natural subsoil largely comprised mid brownish-red silty sand, which, depending on localised topography, was present at a depth of between 0.27m and 1.37m below the current ground surface.

#### 5.2 Trench 1 (Plan Fig. 3a, section Fig. 3b)

This trench was located in the northeast corner of the site in a 'blank' area as interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. It was aligned approximately northwest-southeast and was 20m long. The recorded layer sequence consisted of 0.27m of topsoil (context 100) directly overlying natural subsoil (101). The trench contained one linear feature (F104).

##### Ditch F104

This was aligned north-south and measured 0.76m wide by 0.44m deep, with a V-shaped profile. It contained two fills, with the primary fill (103) composed of mid brownish-red silty clay and the upper fill (102) a dark reddish-brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered.

### 5.3 Trench 3 (Plan Fig. 3c, section Fig. 3d)

This trench was located in the northwest part of the site and positioned to test a linear anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately east-west and was 15m long. The recorded layer sequence consisted of 0.30m of topsoil (context 300) directly overlying natural subsoil (301). The trench contained one linear feature (F305), which correlated quite well with the anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

#### Ditch F305

This was aligned north-south and measured 1.10m wide by 0.50m deep, with moderately sloping sides and flat base. It contained three fills (302-4). Upper fill 302 was composed of mid brownish-red silty clay. Secondary fill 303 was a mid greyish-brown silty clay, while primary fill 304 was a dark greyish-brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

### 5.4 Trench 11 (Plan Fig. 4a, section Fig. 4b; Plate 4)

This trench was located in the central part of the site and positioned to test a linear anomaly and the circular enclosure interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately north-south and was 20m long. The recorded layer sequence consisted of 0.30m of topsoil (context 1100) directly overlying the natural subsoil (1101). The trench contained one linear feature (F1102), which correlated well with the expected position of the enclosure ditch.

#### Enclosure ditch F1102

This was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 2.10m wide by 1.09m deep, with steeply sloping convex sides and a narrow flat base. It contained three fills (1103-5). Upper fill 1103 was composed of mid greyish-brown silty clay. Secondary fill 1104 was a mid reddish-brown sandy clay, while primary fill 1105 was a reddish-greyish-brown sandy silty clay. No finds were recovered.

### 5.5 Trench 12 (Plans Figs 5a and 6c, sections Figs 5b-c and 6a-b; Plates 5-6)

This trench was located in the central part of the site and positioned across the circular enclosure interpreted from air photographs and the results of the geophysical survey. It was T-shaped and measured 50m northwest-southeast and 25m northeast-southwest. The recorded layer sequence consisted of 0.27m of topsoil (context 1200), directly overlying the natural subsoil (1202). The trench contained three linear features (F1206, F1215 and 1220), which correlated well with the expected position of the enclosure ditch. Two shallow terrace cuts (F1210 and F1214) were present within the enclosure.

#### Enclosure ditch F1206, F1215 and 1220

Where excavated, the enclosure ditch varied between 1.98m and 2.14m wide, by 0.93m to 0.97m deep and had steep sides and concave base. It contained up to four fills (for descriptions see Appendix 1), with the secondary fill (1204/1217) containing 89 sherds of Romano-British pottery, with a further two sherds in the upper fill (1203). Although there were no finds from the base of the ditch, fill (1205) was sampled for palaeoenvironmental assessment and found to contain only occasional charcoal fragments. Other finds from the enclosure ditch comprised one sherd of prehistoric pottery, of probable Bronze Age date and residual in this context, 16 pieces of slag, 10 pieces of fired clay and three pieces of burnt bone.

#### Terraces F1210 and F1214

These were cut into the south-facing hill slope. F1210 measured 10.5m long by 0.96m deep, with irregular sides and undulating base. It had two fills, with a primary fill (1209) composed of mid brownish-red sandy clay overlying a secondary fill (1208), of mid reddish-brown sandy silt. F1214 was up to 0.93m deep and exposed in the trench over a length of 8.1m. It had two fills (1211 and 1212). Primary fill 1212 was composed of dark greyish-brown clayey silt which

contained 39 sherds of Romano-British pottery, twelve hobnails (possibly from a single sandal, shoe or boot), a large nail, two amorphous pieces of iron, one piece of Romano-British roof tile, one fragment of fired clay and six pieces of burnt bone. A palaeoenvironmental sample from this fill contained charred grains, occasional cereal chaff and other diverse, but poorly-preserved remains of other domestic food resources (e.g. nuts, berries and legume). Upper fill 1211 was composed of mid reddish-brown sandy silt. Both terraces were located beneath a buried soil (1207) of dark-greyish brown silty loam.

#### **5.6 Trench 14** (Plan Fig. 7a, sections Figs 7b-d; Plates 7-8)

This trench was located in the central part of the site and positioned to test two linear and one discrete anomaly interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was L-shaped in plan and was aligned northwest-southeast and southwest-northeast, with each arm 25m long. The recorded layer sequence consisted of 0.34m of topsoil (context 1400) directly overlying the natural subsoil (1401). The trench contained a small ring gully (F1402), two linear features (F1406 and F1410) and a posthole (F1408). Linear feature F1410 correlated quite well with one of the linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

##### Ring gully F1402

This was partially revealed in the trench and had an extrapolated diameter of 5m. The excavated segment measured 0.76m wide by 0.32m deep with steep straight outer edge and shallowly sloping inner edge and a flat base. It contained a single fill (1403) composed of dark brown sandy loam, which was sealed by a probable occupation layer (1404), a mid brownish-red sandy loam. Fill 1403 contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery, three pieces of fuel ash slag and four pieces of burnt bone, not identifiable to species. An environmental sample from this fill contained charred grains, occasional cereal chaff and other diverse, but poorly-preserved domestic food resources (e.g. nuts, berries and legume). The ring gully cut a deposit of colluvium (1405) which was formed in a natural hollow and which correlated well with one of the linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

##### Probable ditch terminal F1406

This entered the trench from the northeast and terminated in the southwest after 1.8m. It measured 0.56m wide by 0.16m deep, with moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (1407) composed of mid reddish-brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered.

##### Ditch F1410

This was aligned approximately east-west, measuring 0.9m wide by 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (1411) composed of mid reddish-brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered.

##### Posthole F1408

This was adjacent to the north side of ditch F1410 and was circular in plan measuring 0.4m in diameter and 0.27m deep, with steep straight sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1409) composed of dark reddish-brown sandy silty clay. No finds were recovered.

#### **5.7 Trench 17** (Plan Fig. 8a, sections Figs 8b-c)

This trench was located on the eastern side of the site and positioned to test three linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. It was aligned approximately east-west and was 30m long. The recorded layer sequence consisted of 0.4m of topsoil (context 1700), overlying 0.1m of agricultural subsoil (1701), above natural subsoil (1702). Finds of post-medieval and modern date were collected from topsoil 1700. The trench contained two linear features (F1703 and F1705), neither of which correlated well with the anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

### Ditch F1703

This was aligned approximately northwest-southeast, measuring 0.45m wide by 0.25m deep with steep to gradually sloping sides and a flattish base. It had a single fill (1704) composed of mid reddish-brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered.

### Ditch F1705

This was aligned approximately northeast-southwest, measuring 0.55m wide by 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (1706) composed of mid brownish-red sandy silty clay. No finds were recovered.

## **6. THE FINDS** by Naomi Payne with a contribution from Charlotte Coles

### **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 tabulated in Appendix 2.

### **6.2 Prehistoric pottery**

A single sherd (6g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from context 1217, secondary fill of enclosure ditch slot F1215. This is a reasonably well-fired body sherd with an oxidised reddish core and one black oxidised surface. The other surface is missing. The fabric contains fine mica and reddish-brown stone inclusions up to 5mm. This sherd is rather small to be diagnostic but it is most likely to be of Bronze Age date.

### **6.3 Romano-British pottery**

136 sherds (1039g) of Romano-British pottery were recovered from five contexts in Trenches 12 and 14. The majority of this material (124 sherds, 975g) is South Devon ware. Vessel forms include storage jars (19 sherds, 374g), a jar with grooved rim (1 sherd, 9g) and a possible flanged bowl (1 sherd, 17g). Most of the storage jar sherds are body sherds which have been identified by their thickness; there is a single rim sherd from a storage vessel with a large flat grooved rim. The jar with grooved rim is similar in form to a vessel excavated at Mount Batten, Plymouth (Cunliffe 1988, 44, fig. 28, no. 12). The possible flanged bowl rim is incomplete but appears to be similar in form to another vessel from Mount Batten (*ibid.* no. 19). Two of the South Devon body sherds are decorated with acute lattice and there is a cordon on another body sherd.

Other fabrics present in the assemblage comprise South Western BB1 (5 sherds, 36g), grey wares (5 sherds, 23g) and South-East Dorset Black Burnished 1 (2 sherds, 5g). The other identifiable vessel forms are an everted rim jar and a bowl with a flat grooved rim, both in South Western BB1. The few datable sherds within this assemblage suggest a date after c. AD100, as is consistent with what is known of the development of the South Devon industry. Although South Devon ware is known to have been in production during the first century AD, it appears to have started circulating more widely from the late second to early third century, increasing in importance in the fourth century (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 178).

### **6.4 Post-medieval pottery**

Three sherds (8g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 17. All of the sherds are industrially produced and post-date 1750.

### **6.5 Metal finds**

15 iron objects (175g) were recovered from context 1212, fill of terrace F1214, which also contained Roman pottery. The metal finds comprise one large nail, 12 hobnails and two lumps



which cannot be identified without an x-ray. Two of the hobnails have corroded together which may be an indication that the group was originally deposited as part of a sandal, shoe or boot.

#### **6.6 Slag**

19 pieces of slag (7g) were recovered from two contexts in Trenches 12 and 14. The slag is very lightweight and is most probably fuel ash slag. Fuel ash slag is produced during high temperature reactions between alkaline fuel ashes and silicates from soil, sand or clay. It is not diagnostic of a particular activity.

#### **6.7 Fired clay**

11 pieces (55g) of fired clay were recovered from three contexts in Trench 12. The pieces from context 1204 are all in the same fine micaceous fabric. Several of the larger pieces have one curving surface. It is possible that these fragments are from a fired clay object but they are too fragmentary to identify. The remaining pieces of fired clay, from contexts 1212 and 1217, are small, amorphous and featureless.

#### **6.8 Worked stone**

A fragment of worked stone (55g) was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 17. The object is a fine-grained micaceous black stone cylinder with a diameter of 34mm. Six projecting longitudinal ribs give it the appearance of a fluted column. It has one intact flat end; the other end is broken and its current length is 56mm. The object appears to have been originally very regular which could indicate that it was machine-cut. This and its presence in topsoil are suggestive of a recent date. It may be a component from an elaborate mantel clock or candlestick.

#### **6.9 Glass**

A single fragment (16g) of transparent blue-green vessel glass was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 17. This is a piece of a 19th or early 20th century bottle for mineral water or lemonade.

#### **6.10 Ceramic building material (CBM)**

Two fragments (35g) of CBM were recovered from two contexts in Trenches 12 and 17. One fragment, from context 1212, is a piece of imbrex roof tile of Romano-British date. The other piece, a slightly curved fragment from the topsoil in Trench 17, is likely to be post-medieval or modern.

#### **6.11 Burnt bone by Charlotte Coles**

Thirteen fragments (6g) of burnt bone were recovered from four contexts in Trenches 12 and 14. Two small pieces of skull were recovered from context 1203, upper fill of enclosure ditch F1206. These are too small to determine if they are human or animal bone. Six pieces of undiagnostic animal bone were found in context 1212, fill of terrace F1214. Context 1217, secondary fill of enclosure ditch slot F1215, produced a piece of mammal long bone; it is not possible to determine the species of this fragment. Four very small pieces of cortical bone were recovered from context 1403, primary fill of ditch F1402. It is not possible to determine if these are human or animal bone. All of the burnt bone has been calcined. It was therefore burnt to a high enough temperature to turn white, i.e. at least 800°C (McKinley 2013).

## 7. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT by Cressida Whitton

7.1 Three bulk environmental soil samples and a monolith column sample were recovered from archaeological features associated with an enclosure (Samples 1, 2 & 3) and from a ring gully (Sample 4). The bulk samples were recovered from a lower fill within the enclosure ditch (Sample 1) and from a terrace/occupation layer (Sample 3) and a small (30 cm) monolith (Sample 2) was taken through a likely buried soil located immediately above the occupation terrace. This has not been assessed for the purposes of this report, but has been retained in archive. The bulk samples were processed by flotation and sieving in a siraf-type tank, using standard AC archaeology methods. A sub-sample (20%) of the dried flots were sorted under a stereobinocular 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 1.

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 (1000+) xx – moderate (100 - 500) x – occasional (<100)  Charred Plant Macrofossils (CPM) - grain (type eg wheat/barley)/ chaff /weed seed/legume/berry/nut fragments
1	1205	Primary fill of enclosure ditch F1206	6 Lts processed (100% of sample).  100% of small flot scanned	x – occasional (<100) t/b wd charcoal fragments, mostly small size (<5 mm).  No CPM
3	1212	Primary fill of terrace F1214	13 Lts (100% of sample).  20% of large flot sorted	xxx – Moderate t/b wd charcoal fragments, small – medium size (5 – 15 mm)  CPM 500+ grains & ? <5 chaff (?stalk) fragments  CPM – 25 + diverse, large fragments of possible nut/legume/berry, but poorly preserved (few small weeds)
4	1403	Charcoal –rich fill of ring gully F1402	12 Lts (50% of sample)  20% of large flot sorted	xxxx – Frequent t/b wd charcoal fragments, small – medium size (5 – 15 mm) & 20% large roundwood charcoal (15 – 20mm) oak & non-oak branchwood  CPM 500+ grains & ? <5 chaff (?stalk) fragments  CPM – 25 + diverse, large fragments of possible nut/legume/berry, but poorly preserved (few small weeds)

Table 1: Summary of palaeoenvironmental assessment results

7.2 Sample 3 (1212) from the terrace layer within the enclosure and Sample 4 (1403) from a ring gully outside the enclosure contained some evidence for the survival of environmental occupation material, with potentially >500 charred grains and occasional cereal chaff being present in the large flots, with also other diverse, but poorly-preserved CPM also present. These may represent other domestic food resources (e.g. nuts, berries and legume). The overall preservation of the ecofacts, however, is poor and the identification of whole grains, or clearly wheat/barley or oat/rye grain types was limited. Overall, the charcoal rich samples represent a domestic waste assemblage. The residues had no hammerscale fragments to suggest industrial processes. Sample 1 (1205) from the primary fill of the enclosure ditch, contained only

occasional charcoal fragments. Overall the assessed samples shows there is good environmental evidence for domestic settlement. The frequent charcoal assemblage (Samples 3 and 4), comprise mainly small – medium fragments (5 – 15 mm) of trunk/branchwood, with 20% of larger charcoal fragments mainly oak, but also non-oak roundwood twigs and branchwood.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1** The results from the evaluation largely support the geophysical survey interpretation, in that the ‘blank’ areas (devoid of anomalies) contained negative results and the majority of the possible positive linear anomalies were mainly found to be features that relate to colluvial deposits in linear natural hollows. Ditches and a posthole in Trenches 1, 3, 14 and 17 are undated, but are probably the result of rural activities in relation to an agricultural landscape of ditches for field boundaries and drainage and a posthole for a fence. Of particular interest are the three trenches (11, 12 and 14) which contained evidence for Romano-British occupation.
- 8.2** The enclosure central to the site targeted by Trenches 11 and 12 has been shown by the evaluation to represent a settlement site of Romano-British date. The enclosure is circular and measures approximately 40m in diameter and is defined by a steep-sided ditch up to 2.14m wide and 1.09m deep. Based on the geophysics results the entrance faces to the southeast. Within the enclosure two terraces are probably the positions of internal houses, although no associated features such as postholes, pits or gullies were identified. It was not possible to tell the type of buildings (i.e., round or rectilinear in plan) that were built here, but that they may have been at least in-part of Roman type (albeit tentative) is indicated by the find of a piece of Roman ceramic roof tile. Ditched enclosures are typical of rural settlement sites dated to the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods and in Devon these are typically square or rectilinear in plan, although in Cornwall they are more commonly circular and known as ‘rounds’ (Brindle 2016, 345-6).
- 8.3** Outside of the enclosure to the east in Trench 14 a small ring gully F1402, 5m in diameter, which may mark the position of a small roundhouse. Finds from this feature indicate that this is also of Romano-British date. The dating evidence can only indicate that the activity on the site dates from the 2nd century AD through to the end of the 4th century. The wider landscape is known to contain Romano-British activity with evidence for a possible Roman building in the centre of Crediton (HE Pastscape mon. no. 900069) and a Roman villa 2km to the southeast of Crediton (Griffith 1988). The A377 road to south of site is regarded as being a particularly old route and was known as ‘Old Way’ in the late 16th century and is the possible line of a Roman road (Devon HER refs MDVs 18473 and 55355). In addition, a recent trench evaluation at Creedy Bridge, located c. 2km to the east, identified two enclosures of Late Iron to Romano-British date (Caine and Rainbird 2017).

## **9. CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1** Evidence for Romano-British occupation on the site was identified in Trenches 11, 12 and 14. In Trenches 11 and 12 this comprised a circular ditched enclosure, within which was evidence for two platforms which may be the position of buildings. In Trench 14, evidence for further Romano-British settlement was revealed in the form of a small ring gully which may be the position of a roundhouse.
- 9.2** The evaluation indicates that the main area of archaeological interest is at the centre of the proposed development site taking in the enclosure and an extra-mural area to its east.

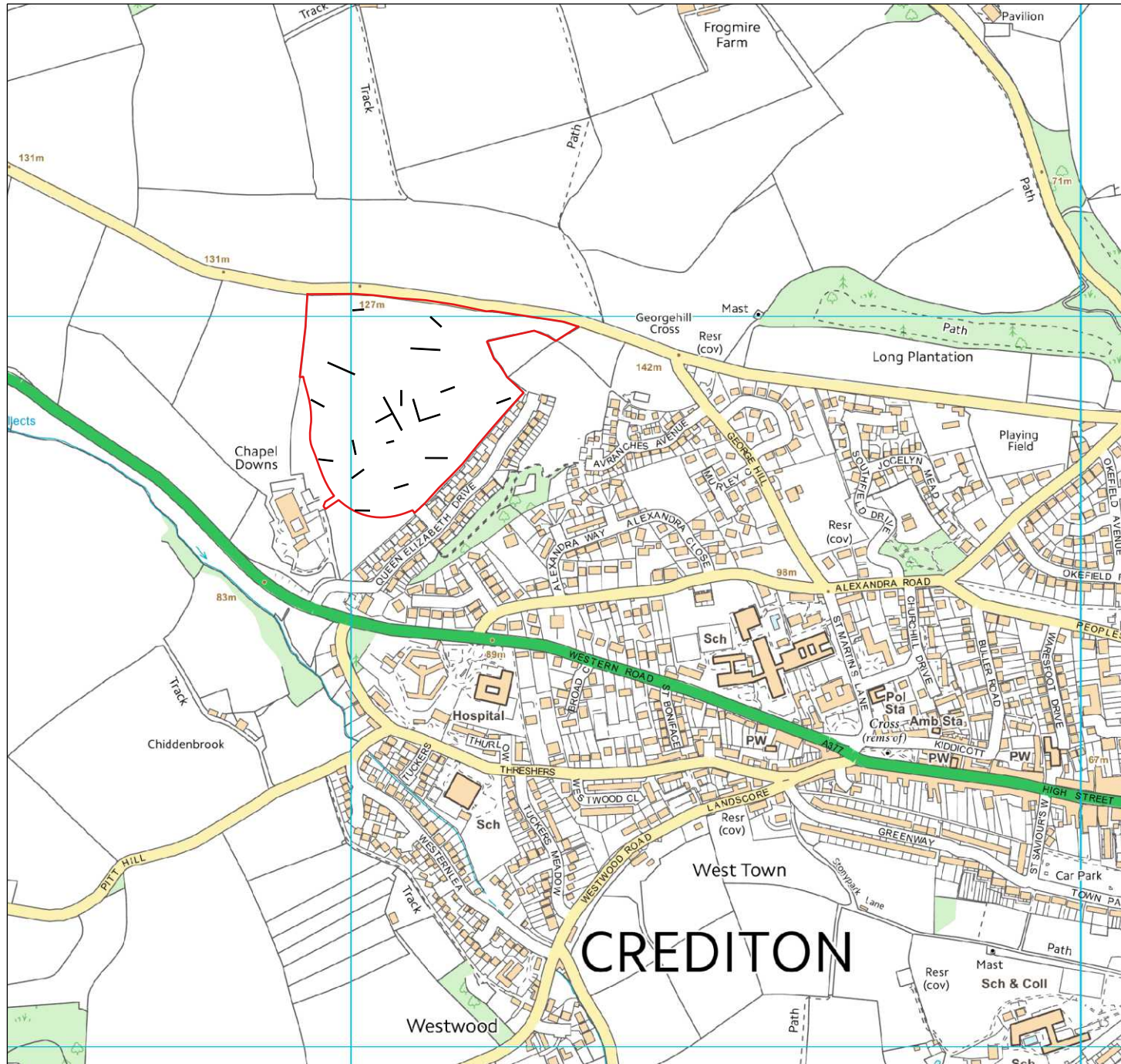
- 9.3** Based on the development layout submitted as part of the planning application, the circular enclosure is shown as being retained within open space, albeit with some minor planting and paths shown. In order to ensure no damage to the enclosure during the construction phase of development, a method statement will be submitted as part of the Written Scheme of Investigation likely to be required as an archaeological condition. This will include for physical protection of the enclosure by fencing, as well as appropriate 'no dig' warning signage.

## **10. ARCHIVE AND OASIS**

- 10.1** 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 **ACD1410** and temporary reference number **RAMM: 17/65** received from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) Exeter. The finds and paper archive will be offered to the museum, 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.
- 10.2** An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **299865**, which includes a digital copy of this report.


## **11. REFERENCES**

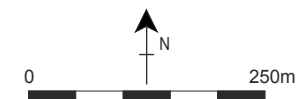
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**Key**

 Application boundary

 Trenches



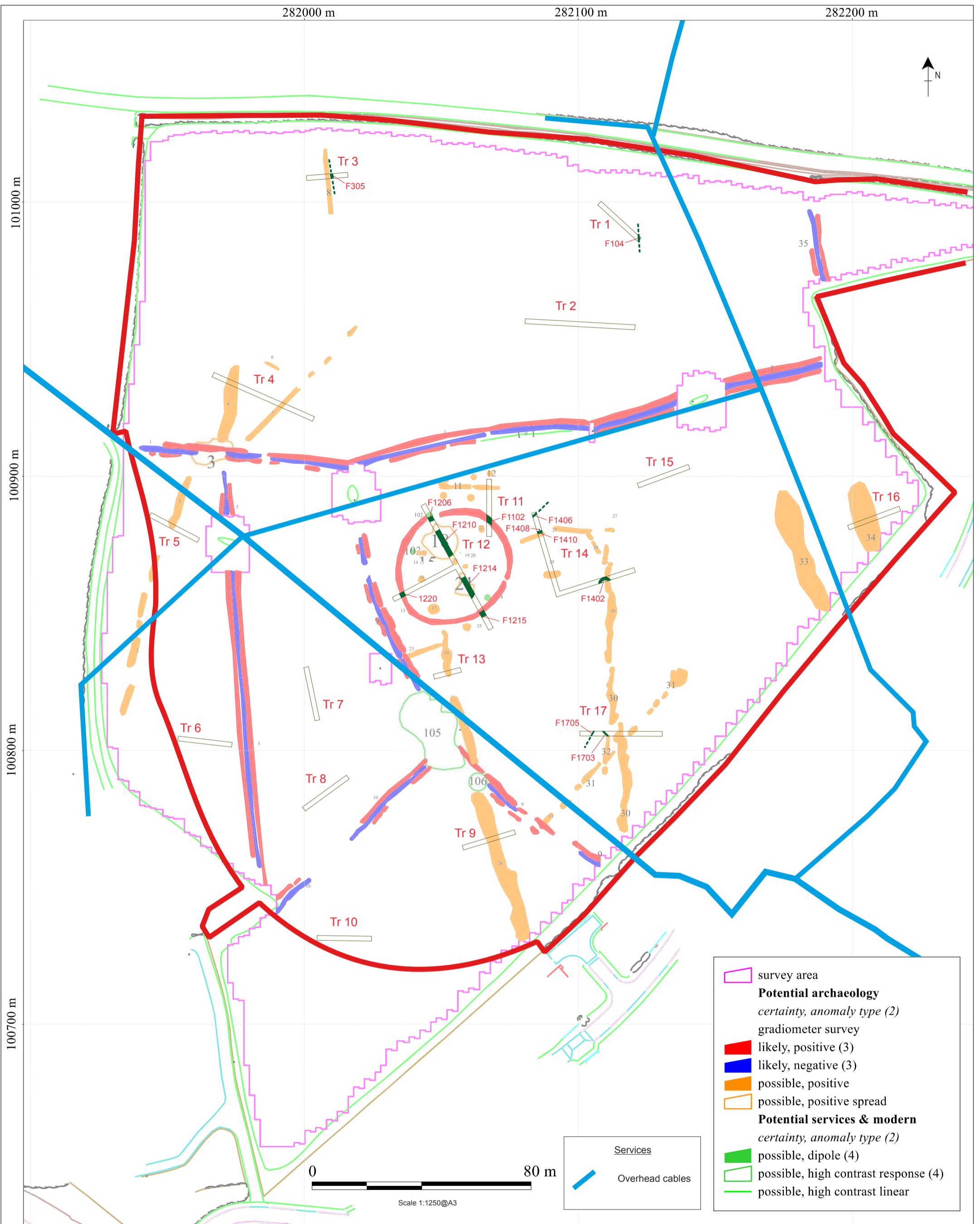
PROJECT

Land at Chapel Downs Farm, Crediton, Devon

TITLE


Fig. 1: Site location








Geophysical survey: Copyright Substrata.  
 Base map: Copyright Hydrock Ltd  
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MASTER PLAN drawing number 0594-1000  
 (September 2017)

 Site boundary

 Tr 3

 Trenches showing archaeological features identified

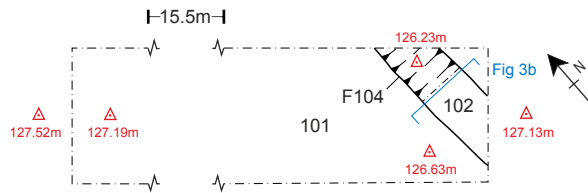
PROJECT 

Land at Chapel Downs Farm, Crediton, Devon

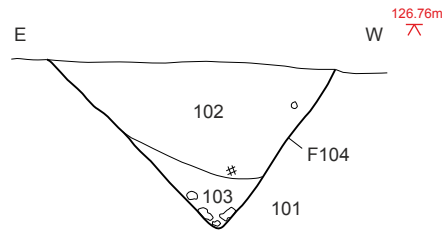
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Fig. 2: Location of trenches with archaeological features shown in relation to the geophysics interpretation

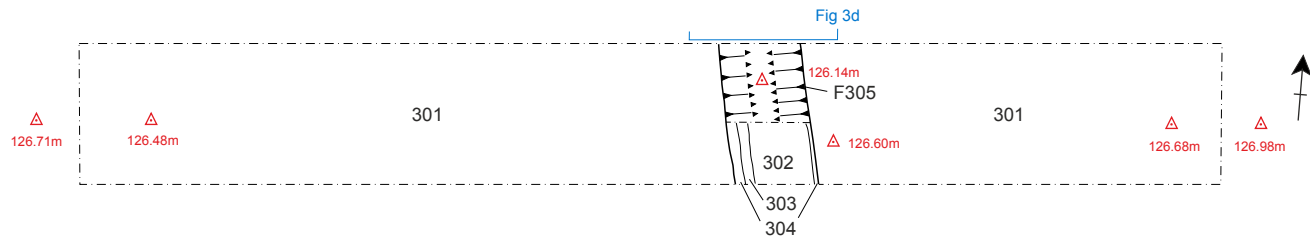
a) Trench 1, plan



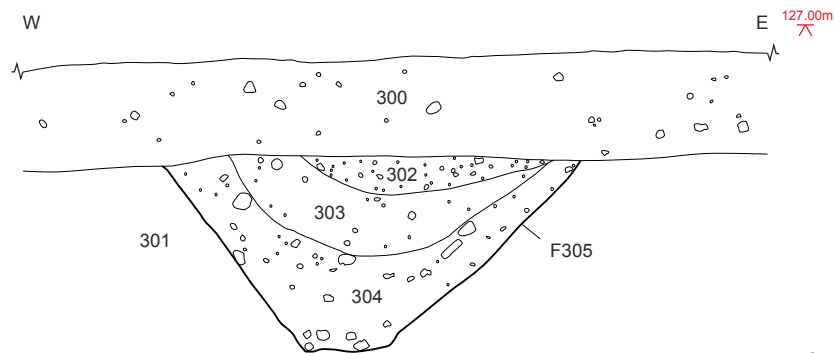
b) Section of ditch F104



c) Trench 3, plan



d) Section of ditch F305



Key to all figures

- Stones
- Charcoal

0 a) & c) 5m

Scale 1:100@A4

0 b) & d) 1m

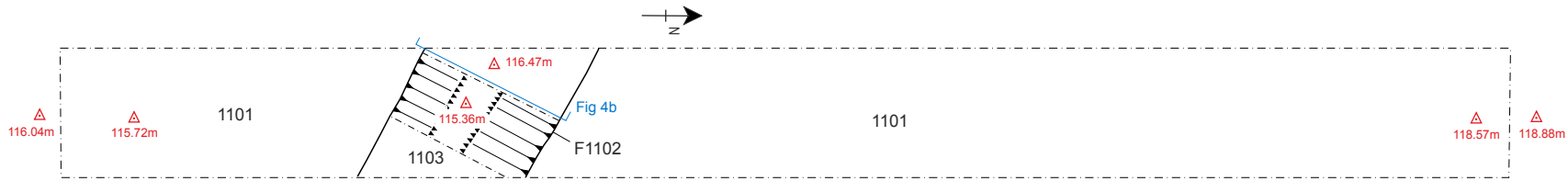
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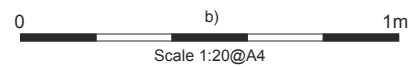
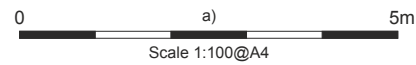
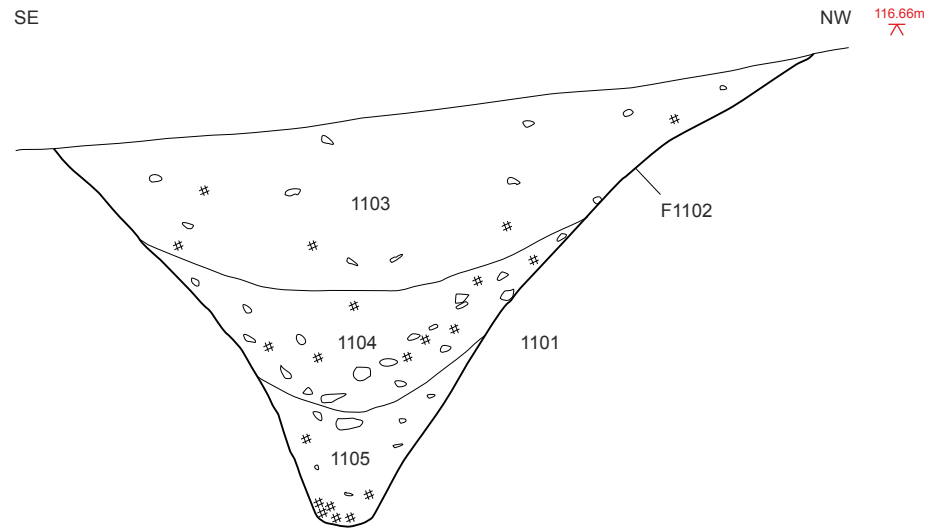
PROJECT  
**Land at Chapel Downs Farm,  
 Crediton, Devon**

TITLE  
**Fig. 3: Trenches 1 and 3, plans  
 and sections**

a) Trench 11, plan



b) Section of enclosure ditch F1102

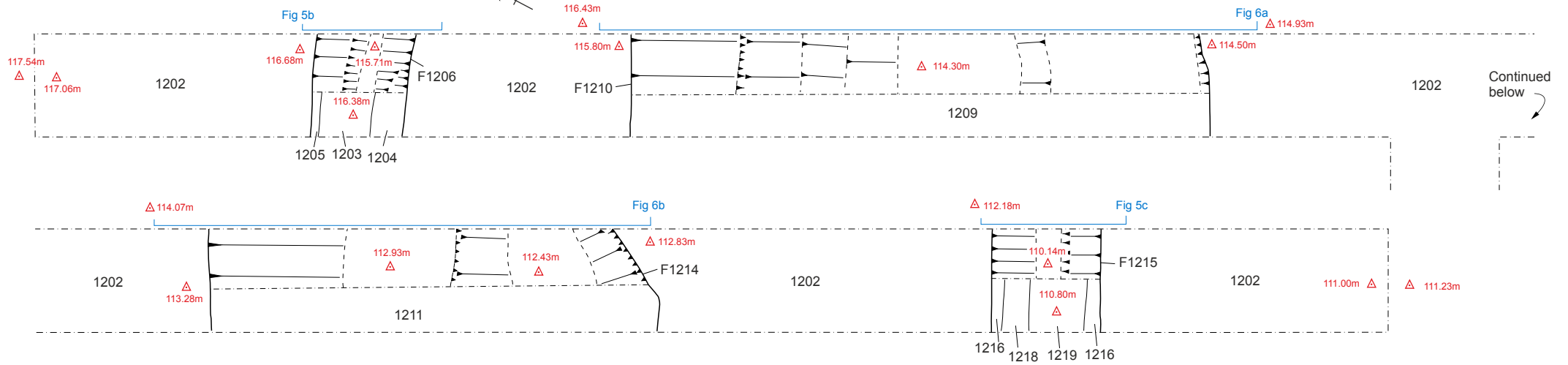


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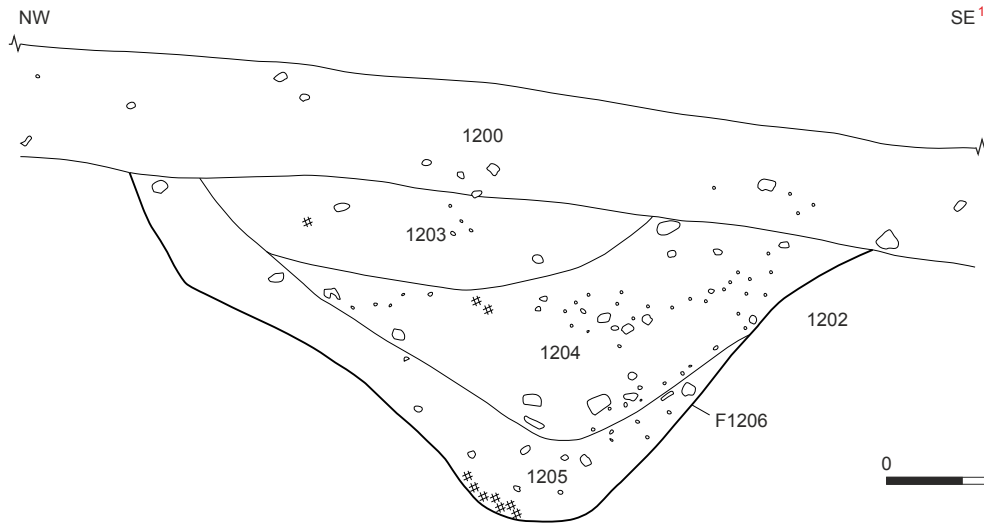
TITLE  
Fig. 4: Trench 11, plan and  
section



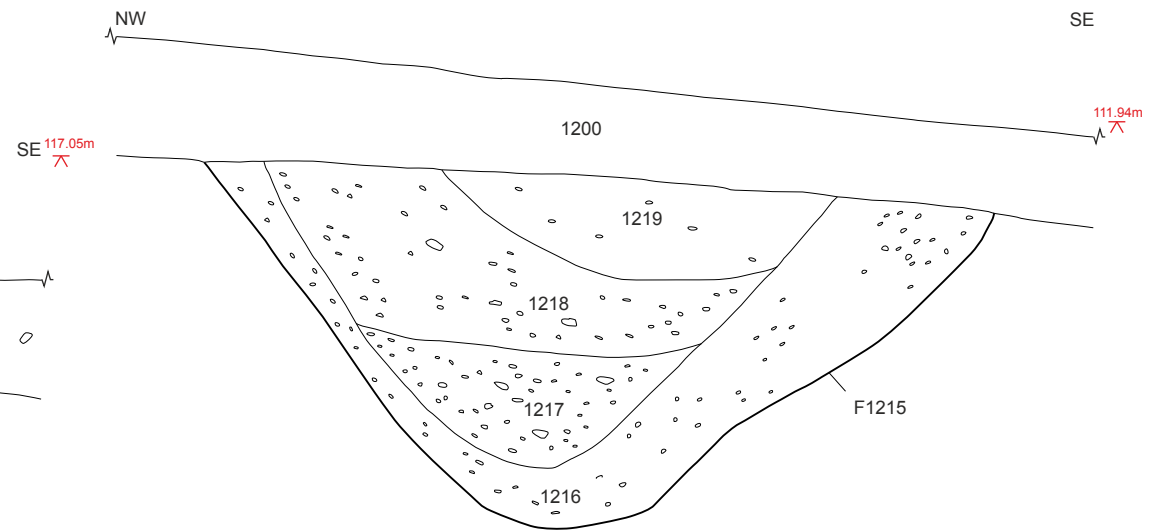
a) Trench 12, plan (northwest-southeast)



b) Section of enclosure ditch F1206



c) Section of enclosure ditch F1215



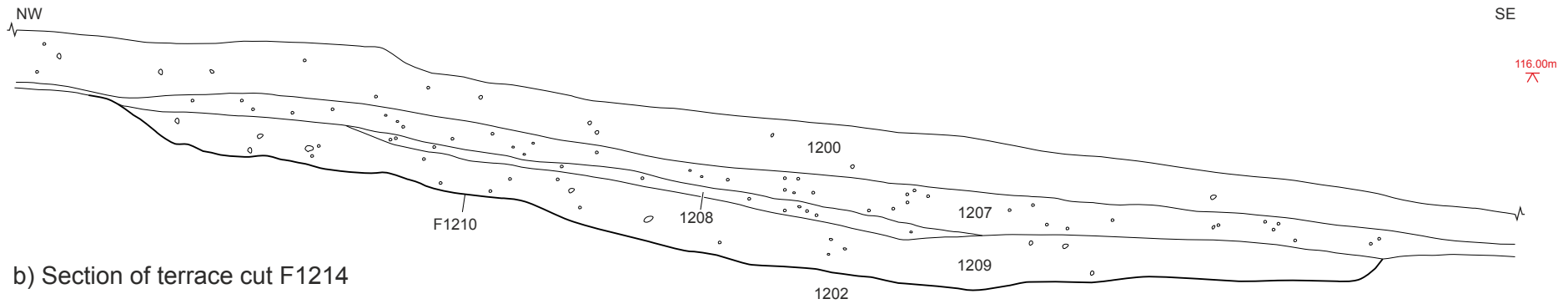
0 a) 5m

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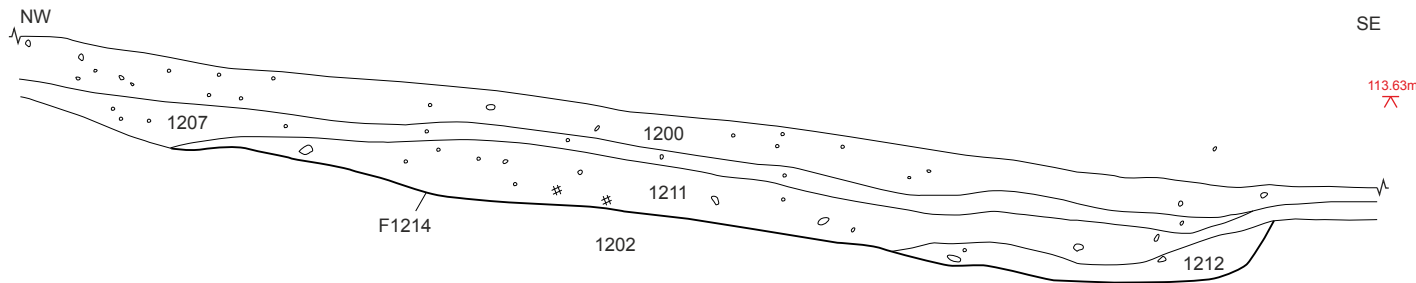
0 b) & c) 1m

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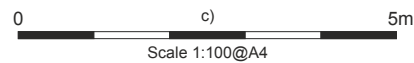
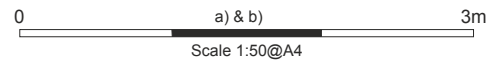
a) Section of terrace cut F1210



b) Section of terrace cut F1214



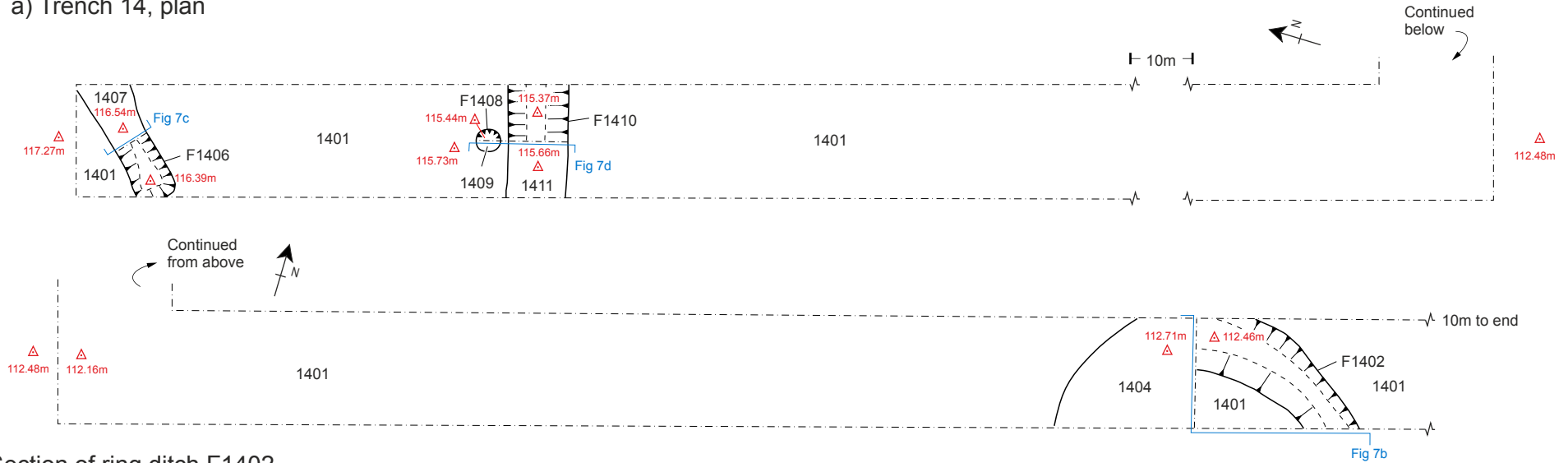
c) Trench 12, plan (southwest-northeast)



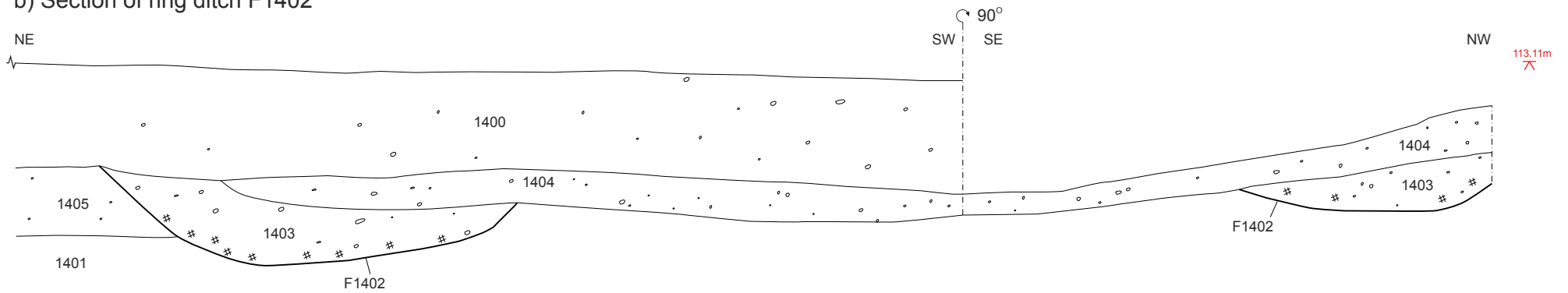
PROJECT  
**Land at Chapel Downs Farm,  
 Crediton, Devon**

TITLE  
**Fig. 6: Trench 12, plan and  
 sections**

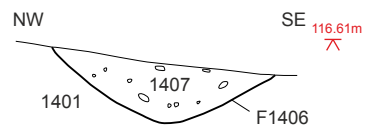
a) Trench 14, plan



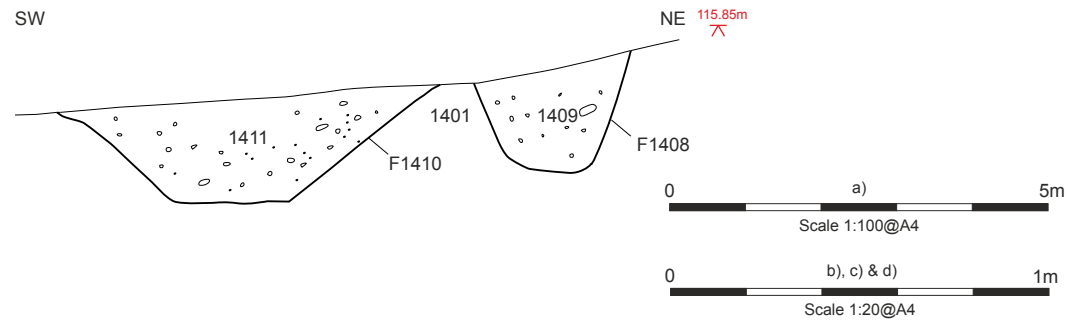
b) Section of ring ditch F1402



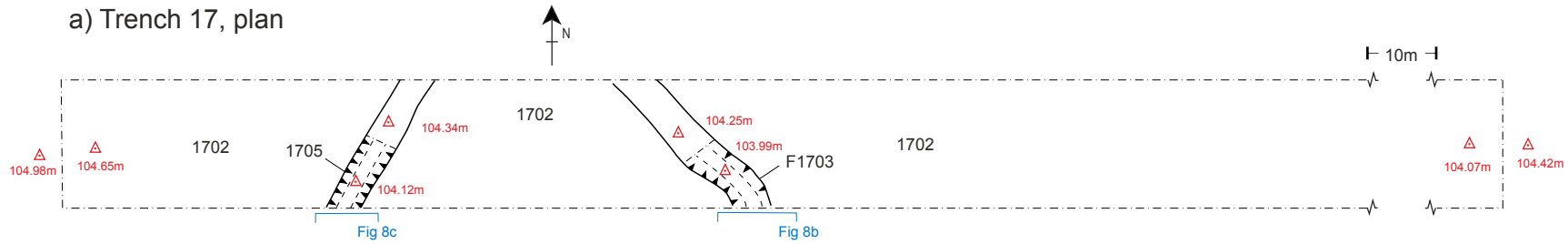
c) Section of ditch terminal F1406



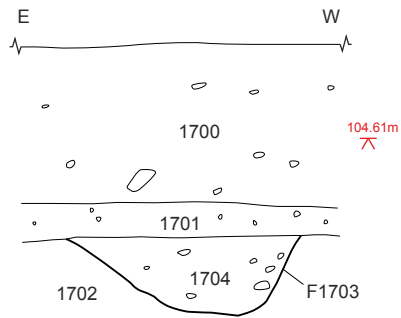
d) Section of ditch F1410 and posthole F1408



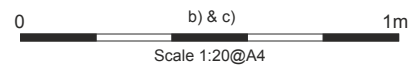
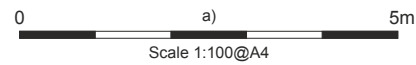
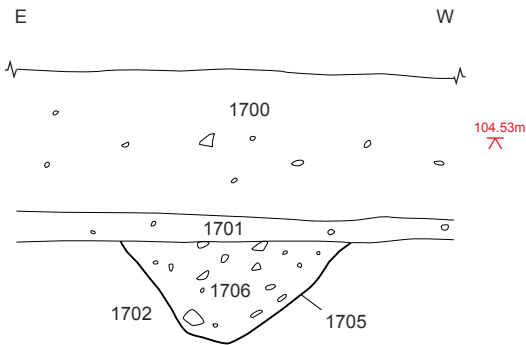
a) Trench 17, plan



b) Section of ditch F1703



c) Section of ditch F1705



PROJECT  
**Land at Chapel Downs Farm,  
 Crediton, Devon**

TITLE  
**Fig. 8: Trench 17, plan and  
 sections**



Plate 1: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 16, looking southwest



Plate 2: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 14, looking southwest



Plate 3: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 14, looking northwest



Plate 4: Trench 11, northwest-facing section of ditch F1102 (2m scale)





Plate 5: Trench 12, southwest-facing section of ditch F1215 (1m scale)



Plate 6: Trench 12, terrace F1210, looking southeast (1m scale)



Plate 7: Trench 14, ring gully F1402, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 8: Trench 14, east-facing sections of ditch F1410 and posthole F1408 (1m scale)

# Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.27m	Topsoil	
101	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.27m+	Natural subsoil	
102	Dark reddish-brown sandy silt	0.27-0.58m	Upper fill of F104	
103	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.57-0.71m	Primary fill of F104	
F104	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 0.76m wide by 0.44m deep with a V-shaped profile	0.27-0.71m	Drainage ditch	

Trench 2		Length 40m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.3m	Topsoil	
201	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.3m+	Natural subsoil	
202	Linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE measuring 1.1m wide by 0.55m deep with irregular sides and base	0.3-0.85m	Natural ice wedge	

Trench 3		Length 15m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
301	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.28m+	Natural subsoil	
302	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.28-0.37m	Upper fill of F305	
303	Mid greyish-brown silty clay	0.28-0.37m	Secondary fill of F305	
304	Dark greyish-brown silty clay	0.28-0.57m	Primary fill of F305	
F305	Linear feature aligned approximately N-S measuring 1.1m wide by 0.5m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base	0.28-0.83m	Ditch	

Trench 4		Length 40m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
401	Mid brownish-grey silt	0.32-0.67m	Colluvium	
402	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.67-1.11m	Colluvium	
403	Mid brownish-red silty sand	1.11m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 5		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.35m	Topsoil	
501	Mid brownish-grey silt	0.35-0.54m	Colluvium	
502	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.54-1.37m	Colluvium	
F503	Mid brownish-red silty sand	1.37m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 6		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.25m	Topsoil	
601	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.25-0.53m	Redeposited natural	
602	Mid brownish-grey silt	0.53-0.8m	Colluvium	
603	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.8-1.2m	Colluvium	
604	Mid brownish-red silty sand	1.2m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 7		Length 20m	Width 1.8m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.23m	Topsoil	
701	Dark brownish-red silty sand	0.23-0.4m	Subsoil	
702	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.4m+	Natural subsoil	



## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 8		Length	Width	Alignment
		22m	1.8m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
801	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.77m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 9		Length	Width	Alignment
		20m	1.8m	E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.41m	Topsoil	
901	Mid reddish-brown sandy loam	0.41-1.02m	Deposit in natural hollow	
902	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.36m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 10		Length	Width	Alignment
		22m	1.8m	E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1000	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
1001	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.28m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 11		Length	Width	Alignment
		20m	1.8m	N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1100	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.3m	Topsoil	
1101	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.3m+	Natural subsoil	
F1102	Linear feature aligned approximately SE-NW measuring 2.1m wide by 1.09m deep with steeply sloping convex sides and a narrow flat base	0.3-1.34m	Enclosure ditch	
1103	Mid greyish-brown silty clay	0.3-0.74m	Upper fill of F1102	
1104	Mid reddish-brown sandy clay	0.7-1.14m	Secondary fill of F1102	
1105	Mid reddish-greyish-brown sandy silty clay	1.08-1.34m	Primary fill of F1102	

Trench 12		Length	Width	Alignment
		50m 25m	1.8m	NW-SE NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1200	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.27m	Topsoil	
1202	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.27m+	Natural subsoil	
1203	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.27-0.57m	Upper fill of F1206	
1204	Mid brownish-red silty clay	0.27-0.89m	Secondary fill of F1206	
1205	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.27-1.2m	Primary fill of F1206	
F1206	Linear feature aligned approximately E-W measuring 1.98m wide by 0.93m deep with convex sides and a concave base	0.27-1.2m	Enclosure ditch	
1207	Dark greyish-brown silty loam	0.27-0.70m	Buried soil	
1208	Mid reddish-brown sandy silt	0.27-0.37m	Upper fill of F1210	
1209	Mid reddish-red sandy clay	0.50-0.67m	Primary fill of F1210	
F1210	Cut of terrace not fully revealed in trench measuring 10.5m long by 0.96m deep with irregular sides and undulating base	0.37-0.67m	Terrace	
1211	Mid brownish-red sandy clay	0.32-0.67m	Upper fill of F1214	
1212	Dark greyish-brown clayey silt	1.03-1.2m	Primary fill of F1214	
F1214	Cut of terrace not fully revealed in trench measuring 8.1m long by 0.93m deep with steep SE side	0.27-1.2m	Terrace	
F1215	Linear feature aligned approximately E-W measuring 2.14m wide by 0.97m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base	0.27-1.24m	Enclosure ditch	
1216	Mid brownish-red sandy loam	0.27-1.24m	Primary fill of F1207	
1217	Dark brownish-red sandy loam	0.75-1.05m	Secondary fill of F1207	
1218	Mid brownish-red sandy loam	0.27-0.75m	Tertiary fill of F1207	
1219	Mid reddish-brown sandy loam	0.27-0.57m	Upper fill of F1207	
1220	Unexcavated N-S aligned linear feature	0.27m+	Enclosure ditch	

Trench 13		Length	Width	Alignment
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## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

		10m	1.8m	E-W
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	
1300	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.24m	Topsoil	
1301	Mid brown sandy clayey loam	0.24-0.34m	Subsoil	
1302	Mid reddish-brown sandy clay	0.34-0.5m	Subsoil	
1303	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.5m+	Natural subsoil	

<b>Trench 14</b>		<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Alignment</b>
		30m	1.8m	NW-SE
		30m		NE-SW
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	
1400	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.34m	Topsoil	
1401	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.34m+	Natural subsoil	
F1402	Curvilinear feature measuring 0.76m wide by 0.32m deep with steep straight outer edge and shallowly sloping inner edge and a flat base	0.34-0.66m	Ring gully	
1403	Dark brown sandy loam	0.34-0.66m	Primary fill of F1402	
1404	Mid brownish-red sandy loam	0.34-0.52m	?Occupation layer	
1405	Mid brownish-red sandy loam	0.34-0.56m	Deposit in natural hollow	
F1406	Linear terminal feature aligned approximately NE-SW measuring 0.56m wide by 0.16m deep with moderately sloping straight sides and a concave base	0.34-0.5m	?Ditch	
1407	Mid reddish-brown sandy loam	0.34-0.5m	Fill of F1406	
F1408	Pit feature circular in plan measuring 0.4m in diameter and 0.27m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base	0.34-0.61m	Posthole	
1409	Dark reddish-brown sandy silty clay	0.34-0.61m	Fill of F1408	
F1410	Linear feature aligned approximately E-W measuring 0.9m wide by 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base	0.34-0.64m	Ditch	
1411	Mid reddish-brown sandy silt	0.34-0.64m	Fill of F1410	

<b>Trench 15</b>		<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Alignment</b>
		20m	1.8m	NE-SW
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	
1500	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.3m	Topsoil	
1501	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.3m+	Natural subsoil	

<b>Trench 16</b>		<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Alignment</b>
		20m	1.8m	NE-SW
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	
1600	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
1601	Mid reddish-brown sandy loam	0.32-0.68m	Deposit in natural hollow	
1602	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.32m+	Natural subsoil	

<b>Trench 17</b>		<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Alignment</b>
		30m	1.8m	E-W
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	
1700	Dark brown silty loam	0-0.4m	Topsoil	
1701	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.4-0.5m	Subsoil	
1702	Mid brownish-red silty sand	0.5m+	Natural subsoil	
F1703	Linear feature aligned approximately NW-SE measuring 0.45m wide by 0.25m deep with steep to gradually sloping sides and a flattish base	0.5-0.75m	Ditch	
1704	Mid reddish-brown sandy clay	0.5-0.75m	Fill of F1703	
F1705	Linear feature aligned approximately NE-SW measuring 0.55m wide by 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base	0.5-0.8m	Ditch	
1706	Mid brownish-red sandy silty clay	0.5-0.8m	Fill of F1705	

# Appendix 2

## Finds Quantifications by Context

**APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATION BY CONTEXT**

Context	Context Description	Prehistoric pottery		Romano-British pottery		Post-medieval pottery		Iron		Slag		Fired clay		Worked stone		Glass		CBM		Burnt bone	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1203	Upper fill of enclosure ditch F1206			2	13					16	4									2	1
1204	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch F1206			14	91							8	49								
1212	Fill of terrace F1214			39	372			15	175			1	1					1	35	6	1
1217	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch slot F1215	1	6	75	484							2	5							1	2
1403	Primary fill of ring gully F1402			5	76					3	3									4	2
1700	Trench 17 topsoil					3	8							1	55	1	16	1	25		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1039</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

weights in grams

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