

LAND ADJACENT TO MALBOROUGH PARK, MALBOROUGH, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SX 7104 3945)

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Outline Planning Reference: South Hams District Council
0549/17/OPA (Condition 27)

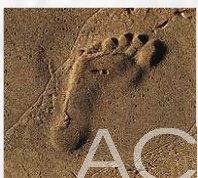
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On behalf of:
Baker Estates Ltd

Report No: ACD1509/3/0

Date: March 2018



archaeology

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Approved by	John Valentin

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Tom Biddle of Baker Estates Ltd and managed for AC archaeology by John Valentin. The site works were carried out by Chris Caine, Abigail Brown, Simon Hughes, Stephanie Ralph and Laurence Vinnels. The illustrations for this report were prepared by Sarnia Blackmore. The advice of Stephen Reed of Devon County Council Historic Environment Team, is gratefully acknowledged.

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

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation on land adjacent to Malborough Park, Malborough, Devon (NGR SX 7104 3945), was undertaken by AC archaeology during February 2018. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 13 trenches totalling 515m in length, with each 2m wide. These were positioned to provide sample coverage of the site and target the position of the site of a former building present on historic mapping.

Negative results were recorded in most trenches indicating that the site is located within an agricultural landscape that has not been a focus for settlement in the past. A field barn or animal shelter of late post-medieval date and known from historic mapping was partially uncovered beneath deep overlying soils. A small collection of finds was recovered from overlying deposits, comprising three sherds of post-medieval pottery, an iron nail and a single prehistoric worked flint.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land adjacent to Malborough Park, Malborough, Devon (NGR SX 7104 3945; Fig. 1), was undertaken by AC archaeology during February 2018. The evaluation was commissioned by Baker Estates Ltd and was required as a condition (27) of outline planning consent granted by South Hams District Council, as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team. The new development will comprise the erection for erection of circa 50no. dwellings and means of access (all other matters reserved).
- 1.2 The site covers approximately 2.2 hectares, forms part of a larger field that is in agricultural use and is located on the southeast edge of the village (Plates 1-2). It is broadly rectangular, with the northern, eastern and western external boundaries formed by existing hedgerows. The topography is variable across the site, ranging from 95m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) within the northwest corner of the site to 86m aOD in the southwest corner. The underlying solid geology comprises schist of the Start Horneblende Schists and the Start Mica Schists Formations. There are no superficial deposits recorded within the application area (British Geological Survey online viewer 2018).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of a Historic Environment Assessment (Costen and Pink 2016). This established that there is evidence for prehistoric archaeology within the vicinity, with the most significant asset a Scheduled Iron Age hillfort at Burleigh Dolts situated within the landscape to the north. A possible prehistoric cave has been identified to the south of the hillfort and artefacts of Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been found to the west of Malborough. There is therefore considered to be a more general potential for previously unknown prehistoric activity within this area.
- 2.2 Within the application area itself, a building (a probable barn) is depicted in the south-east corner of the site on an Estate Map of 1777. This is still there in 1841, 1885 and 1890, but had been removed by 1906 (Costen and Pink 2016, Appendix 2: Maps 1-5).

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The main aim of trial trenching 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 for potential evidence for early settlement or funerary activity, as well the former building depicted on the 1777 Estate Map. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2018) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It comprised the machine-excavation of 13 trenches totaling 515m in length and with each 2m wide. These were positioned to provide representative coverage across the site, as well as targeting the building depicted on the 1777 Estate Map (Fig. 1).
- 4.2 All trenches were located with a Leica Netrover GPS with sub-10mm accuracy. The removal of overlying deposits within the trenches was undertaken in a maximum of 0.2m spits under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural geology was exposed. Spoilheaps were scanned for displaced artefacts.
- 4.3 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

One of the trenches (Trench 12) contained archaeological features and the remaining twelve had negative results. The trench containing archaeological features is described in detail below, with descriptions for all trenches presented in tabulated form in Appendix 1. Across the site, the recorded layer sequence comprised a topsoil of mid reddish-brown clayey silt, above a light brown clayey silt agricultural subsoil. The natural subsoil largely comprised light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches silt and stone. The natural subsoil was present at a depth of between 0.28m and 1.20m below the current ground surface.

5.2 Trench 12 (Plan Fig. 2a, section Figs 2b; Plates 3-4)

This trench was located in the southeast corner of the site in the position of a building known from historic mapping. It was T-shaped in plan and was 15m long northeast-southwest by 30m northwest-southeast. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.30m of topsoil (context 1200), overlying 0.15m of agricultural subsoil (1202). The natural subsoil (1203) was therefore present at a minimum of 0.45m below the ground surface, although in the eastern portion of the trench a deeper deposit of colluvium (1201), up to 0.90m thick, was present. The trench revealed the surviving buried remains of a building (Structure 1) comprising a wall (1207) and floor (1205).

Structure 1

The partial remains of a building were uncovered within the junction of the T-shaped trench. It comprised wall footings (1207) composed of stone in a heavy lime mortar bonding. It was aligned

north-south and measured 0.25m wide. Due to the depth of the trench and looseness of the overlying soils it was not further investigated, although it appeared to be constructed within a foundation trench (F1206). To the south of wall 1207 an area of level floor composed of lime mortar was exposed (1205) continuing to the southeast for a distance of 4.10m. The building appeared to have been constructed within a terrace (F1204) cut into the hill which sloped up to the north. Within the terrace a thick deposit of demolition material or collapse was present (1209), which contained stone boulders, pebbles and lime mortar fragments.

6. THE FINDS *by 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 small collection of finds is summarised in Table 1 below.

Context	Context Description	Worked flint/chert		Post-medieval pottery		Iron	
		No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)
100	Trench 1 topsoil			1	25		
300	Trench 3 topsoil			1	15		
400	Trench 4 topsoil	1	5				
1200	Trench 12 topsoil					1	64
1201	Trench 12 colluvium			1	12		
Totals		1	5	3	52	1	64

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

6.2 Worked flint

A single worked flint was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4. This is a broken retouched blade which is missing its distal end. The form of the proximal end suggests it was struck with a soft hammer. The piece is likely to be Early Neolithic in date.

6.3 Post-medieval pottery

Three sherds (52g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from overlying deposits in Trenches 1, 3 and 12. The sherds from Trench 1 and Trench 12 are both St German's type ware of 15th or 16th century date. The sherd from Trench 1 is a rim from a large bowl or jar broadly similar to no. 155 from St Andrew's Street, Plymouth (Fairclough 1979, pp. 58 and 86). The sherd from Trench 3 is a piece of rim from a South Somerset sgraffito slip ware dish dating from the 17th or 18th century.

6.4 Metalwork

A single iron find (64g) was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 12. This is a large iron nail. It has been forged but its condition suggests a relatively recent date.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Negative results were recorded in the majority of trenches. This confirms that this is historically an agricultural landscape and there is no indication through features, deposits or the very small number of finds that this area has been used for settlement at any time in the past. The poorly-preserved and deeply buried remains of a building were located in the southeast corner of the site in Trench 12 (Structure 1).

7.2 Structure 1 was established as the poorly-preserved remains of a building which was present on a 1777 estate map of the area. This and subsequent historic maps and field name evidence indicate that it was a field barn or animal shelter, with the lack of evidence from the evaluation for domestic occupation supporting this conclusion. Historic maps show that the building had been removed by 1906.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The evaluation indicates that the site is located within an agricultural landscape that has not been a focus for settlement in the past. The small number of finds from the site indicates that it is probably located at relatively some distance from any settlement sites. A probable field barn or animal shelter of likely late post-medieval date and known from historic mapping was partially uncovered. This was below overlying soils up to 1.2m in depth.

8.2 The results of the evaluation indicate that the proposed development is unlikely to impact on any early archaeological features or deposits. The structure located in the southeast corner of the site is probably a field barn of 18th century date.

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 **ACD1509** and it will be offered to the Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number **PLYMG: 2018.3** and if they are unable to accept it 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.

9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **310452**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

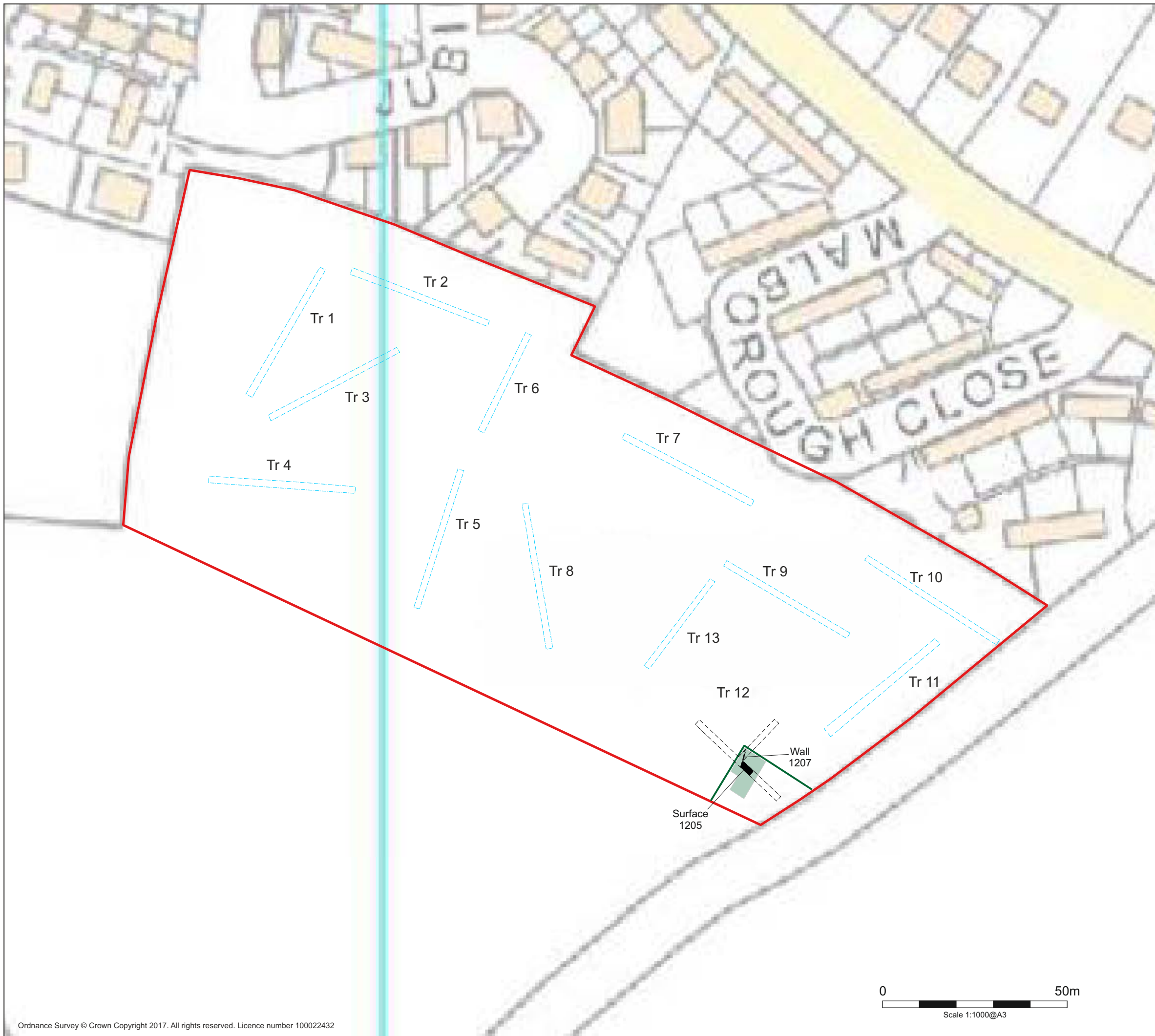
10. REFERENCES

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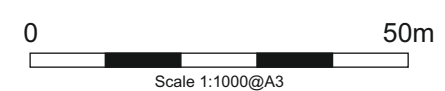
Key

- Application boundary
- Location of former building as depicted on 1777 Estate map
- Trench with archaeological features identified
- Negative trenches

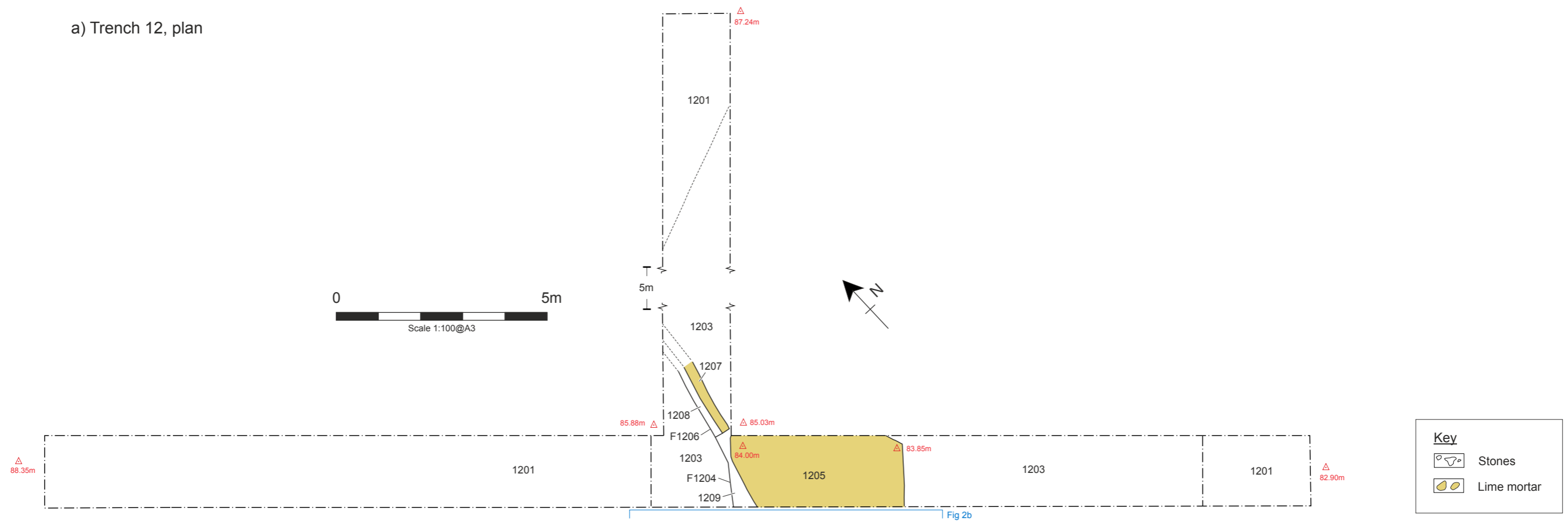
PROJECT
 Land at Malborough Park, Malborough, Devon

TITLE

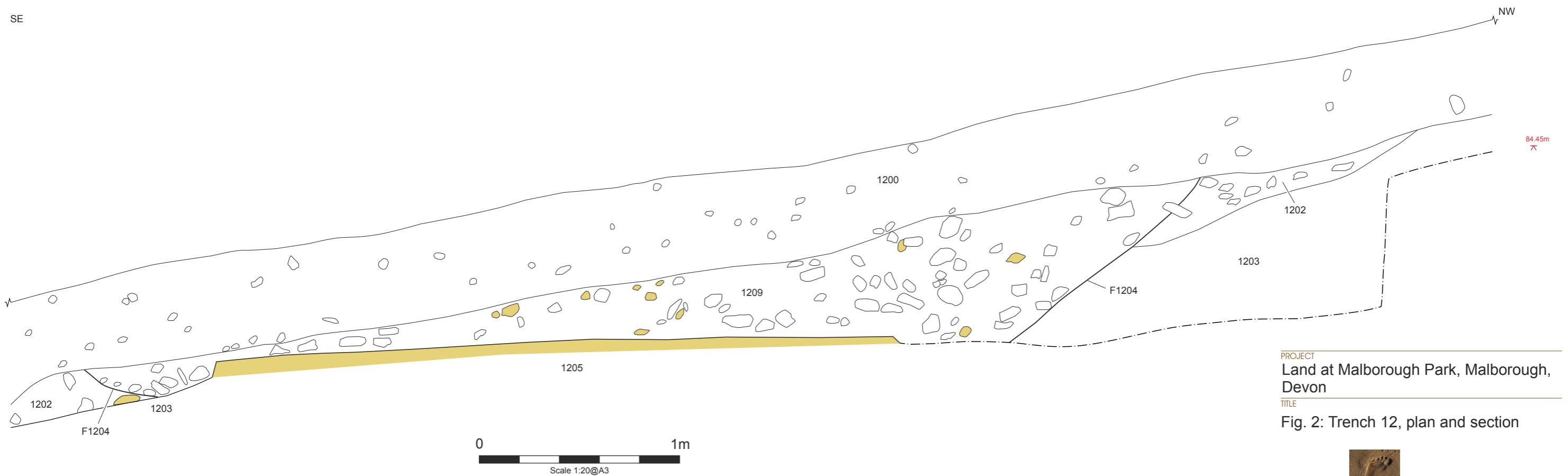
Fig. 1: Location of site and trenches with archaeological features shown



a) Trench 12, plan



b) Section of wall 1207, terrace F1204 and floor surface 1205



PROJECT
Land at Malborough Park, Malborough,
Devon

TITLE
Fig. 2: Trench 12, plan and section



Plate 1: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 4, looking northwest towards Malborough Church spire



Plate 2: General view of site in the vicinity of Trench 9, looking south towards Portlemore Barton in the valley bottom and Bolt Head on the horizon



Plate 3: General view of the vicinity of Trench 12, looking southwest towards Portlemore Barton in the valley bottom



Plate 4: Trench 12, Structure 1, showing wall footing 1207 and floor surface 1205, looking southeast (scale 1m)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.23m	Topsoil	
101	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.23-0.35m	Agricultural subsoil	
102	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.35m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.24m	Topsoil	
201	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.24-0.35m	Agricultural subsoil	
202	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.35m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.35m	Topsoil	
301	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.35-0.47m	Agricultural subsoil	
302	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.47m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 4		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.23m	Topsoil	
401	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.23-0.34m	Agricultural subsoil	
402	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.34m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 5		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.33m	Topsoil	
501	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.33-0.49m	Agricultural subsoil	
502	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.49m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 6		Length	Width	Alignment
		30m	2m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.23m	Topsoil	
601	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.23-0.36m	Agricultural subsoil	
602	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.36m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 7		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
701	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.32-0.48m	Agricultural subsoil	
702	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.48m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 8		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.27m	Topsoil	
801	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.27-0.41m	Agricultural subsoil	
802	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.41m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 9		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
901	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.28m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 10		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1000	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.67m	Topsoil	
1001	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.67-1.04m	Agricultural subsoil	
1002	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	1.04m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 11		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1100	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.90m	Topsoil	
1101	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.90-1.06m	Agricultural subsoil	
1102	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	1.06m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 12		Length	Width	Alignment
		30m	2m	NW-SE
		15m		NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1200	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.30m	Topsoil	
1201	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0.30-1.20m	Colluvium	
1202	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.30-0.45m	Agricultural subsoil	
1203	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.45m+	Natural subsoil	
F1204	Not fully revealed in trench measuring 14.75m long by 0.90m deep	0.20-1.10m	?Terrace	
1205	Not fully revealed in trench measuring 4.10m long by 0.10m thick	0.55-0.65	Lime mortar floor surface	
F1206	Linear feature measuring 0.5m wide – not excavated	0.60m+	Foundation trench	
1207	Stone bonded by lime mortar measuring 0.25m wide	0.60m+	Wall footing	
1208	Mid reddish-brown, silty loam, with common stone	0.60m+	Fill of F1206	
1209	Mid reddish-brown, silty loam, with common stone, boulders and pebbles (30mm to 300mm in diameter)	0.20-0.60m	Demolition layer	

Trench 13		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	2m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1300	Mid reddish-brown, clayey silt, with common stone and pebbles	0-0.32m	Topsoil	
1301	Light brown, clayey silt, with abundant stone	0.32-0.46m	Agricultural subsoil	
1302	Light brownish-yellow and mid reddish-brown with grey patches, silt with stone	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	

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