

LAND AT COLWAY LANE AND GROVELANDS, CHUDLEIGH, DEVON

Centred on SX 8713 7974

Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Planning Reference: Teignbridge District Council
16/02423/MAJ

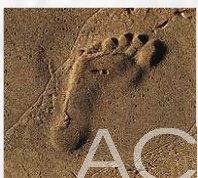
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On behalf of:
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Report No: ACD1302/4/0

Date: May 2018



archaeology

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(Centred on NGR SX 8713 7974)

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Planning ref. Teignbridge District Council 16/02423/MAJ

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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 Colway Lane and Grovelands, Chudleigh, Devon (NGR SX 8713 7974), was undertaken by AC archaeology during May 2018. The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 10 trenches totalling 360m in length and each 1.6m wide. These were positioned to target anomalies and 'blank' areas identified by a previous geophysical survey.

Most of the trenches contained low-level results, although a series of modern stone-filled land drains were present in a number of these. One small agricultural drainage gully of post-medieval date and one irregular tree throw were, however, investigated, with the latter containing a single worn sherd of Bronze Age pottery. A small collection of other finds was recovered, comprising post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco-pipe and animal bones.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation on land at Colway Lane and Grovelands, Chudleigh, Devon (NGR SX 8713 7974; Fig. 1), was undertaken by AC archaeology during May 2018. The evaluation was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Exeter and was required by Teignbridge District Council as an expected condition of planning consent once obtained, as advised by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team. The new development will comprise the erection of 65 dwellings and supporting infrastructure including roads, parking areas and open spaces.
- 1.2 The site comprises two agricultural fields located on the north side of the town of Chudleigh and separated by the northeast-southwest aligned New Exeter Street (Plates 1 and 2). The northern field (Plot 1) comprises an area of approximately 0.6ha of land, which slopes down in a southeasterly direction from 81m to 76m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). This plot is bounded by agricultural land to the north and northeast and housing to the east and west. The southern field (Plot 2) comprises an area of approximately 1.5ha, with the land sloping in a southeasterly direction from approximately 77m to 66m aOD. The plot is bounded by an east-west aligned road to the north and surrounded by housing to the south, east and west. The underlying solid geology comprises interbedded mudstone and sandstone of the Crackington Formation. A superficial alluvium deposit of clay, silt, sand and gravel is recorded within the far southeast corner of the site (British Geological Survey Online Viewer 2018).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of a Historic Environment Assessment (Pink 2016) followed by a geophysical survey (Dean 2016) The assessment established that there is a small amount of occupation of prehistoric date nearby represented by single findspots, by records relating to the 19th century findspot of a cremation burial of possible prehistoric or Romano-British date and the recent discovery of a Late Iron Age pit furnace on land immediately to the northeast. The wider landscape beyond the study area contains important evidence of Palaeolithic activity, and a hillfort of probable Iron Age date.
- 2.2 The geophysical survey of the site identified mainly linear anomalies thought to relate to historic and potentially earlier land division and drainage.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The main aim of the trial trenching was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results of the work, as set out in this report, will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent

mitigation. The general aim of any follow-up work will be to investigate and record any heritage assets with archaeological interest that may be present within the development site and will be affected by the construction works.

3.2 More site specific aims were as follows:

- To clarify the presence/absence, extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered;
- To test the efficacy of the geophysical survey by excavating trenches in what are currently thought to be blank areas;
- Identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site;
- Undertake any palaeoenvironmental investigation as appropriate; and,
- Provide further information on the archaeology of Devon.

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 10 trenches totaling 360m in length and with each 1.6m 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

Two of the trenches contained archaeological features and eight (Trenches 1-6, 8 and 10) had largely negative results. Six trenches had stone-filled land drains of modern date which were investigated to confirm function only (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10). This included all four trenches (1-4) in the northern field (Plot 1) which revealed that the land drains were arranged in a 'herringbone' pattern. The trenches containing archaeological features are described in detail below, with descriptions for all trenches presented in tabulated form in Appendix 1. Across the site, the recorded layer sequence comprised a topsoil of mid brownish-grey sandy loam, above a mid grey clayey loam agricultural subsoil. The natural subsoil largely comprised light brownish-yellow silty clay, with occasional sub-angular gravel to pebbles. The natural subsoil was present at a depth of between 0.28m and 0.64m below the current ground surface.

5.2 Trench 7 (Plan Fig. 2a, sections Figs 2b-c; Plate 3)

This trench was located in the northeast corner of Plot 2 in an area of natural and modern features as 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 0.43m of topsoil (context 700), overlying 0.21m of agricultural subsoil (701). The natural

subsoil (702) was therefore present at 0.64m below the ground surface. The trench contained one linear feature (F704).

Gully F704

This was aligned approximately east-west and measured 1.24m wide by 0.21m deep, with shallow-sloping concave sides and a rounded base. It had a single fill (703) composed of mid greyish brown sandy clay, which contained three sherds of post-medieval pottery and three pieces of animal bone. The gully cut agricultural subsoil layer 701.

5.3 Trench 9 (Plan Fig. 3a, section Fig. 3b; Plate 4)

This trench was located in the southern part of Plot 2 in a 'blank' area as interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned approximately east-west and was 50m long. The overlying layer sequence consisted of 0.26m of topsoil (context 900), overlying 0.38m of agricultural subsoil (901). The natural subsoil (902) was therefore present at 0.64m below the ground surface. The trench contained one irregular discrete feature (F903).

Tree throw F903

This was only partially exposed in the trench, it had irregularly-shaped shallow-sloping sides and an irregular base with frequent root channels. It extended across the trench beyond its edges and measured 3.9m wide and 0.31m deep. It had a single fill (904) composed of dark brown silty clay, which contained a single abraded sherd of pottery dating to the Bronze Age period.

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

6.1 Introduction

A large quantity of industrially-made pottery, glass and clay tobacco-pipe stems dating from the 19th century or later were recovered during the evaluation. Only material earlier in date or of additional interest was retained. The retained material was 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 retained finds is summarised in Table 1.

Context	Context Description	Prehistoric pottery		Post-medieval pottery		Glass		Clay tobacco-pipe		Animal bone	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
100	Trench 1 topsoil			4	98						
200	Trench 2 topsoil			3	115						
300	Trench 3 topsoil			1	15						
400	Trench 4 topsoil			2	82	1	30	1	2		
500	Trench 5 topsoil			10	219	1	414				
600	Trench 6 topsoil			3	90						
700	Trench 7 topsoil			2	29						
703	Fill of gully F704			3	22					3	16
800	Trench 8 topsoil			2	65			1	12		
900	Trench 9 topsoil			1	29						
904	Fill of tree throw F903	1	10								
1000	Trench 10 topsoil			9	258						
Totals		1	10	40	1022	2	444	2	14	3	16

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

6.2 Prehistoric pottery

A single sherd (10g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill of tree throw F903. This is a body sherd of Bronze Age date.

6.3 Post-medieval pottery

40 sherds (1022g) of post-medieval pottery were retained, most of which derived from topsoil contexts. This material is summarised in Table 2.

Context	Stoneware	Tin-glazed earthenware	South Somerset	North Devon	Totnes-Type	Porcelain	Yellow slip ware	Industrial	Miscellaneous earthenware	Notes
100			3				1			SS C15/16 Type 1B bowl rim, base from C18 Type 2D cup with green glaze, base from C17/18 Type 3F dish with splashed slip
200				1					2	Base from NDGF cup
300	1									Body sherd of C16/17 German Stoneware
400			1			1				SS rim from C15/16 Type 2A jug rim, porcelain base sherd with foot ring and large internal spike
500			6			2		2		2 hand-painted porcelain sherds including a base sherd from a teacup, 1 Jackfield-type body sherd
600					2			1		White earthenware chamber pot rim
700						1			1	Base from hand-painted porcelain tea cup, rim from Border ware cup
703			3							Body sherds, sooted externally
800			2							SS jug handle and rim from C17/18 Type 3D bowl
900			1							Rim from C17/18 buckle-handled pot
1000						1		2		Porcelain body sherd with coloured hand-painted decoration on top of glaze, two joining sherds from a transfer-printed Holloway's Family Ointment jar, c. 1880
1003		3	2					1		3 joining sherds of hand-painted tin-glazed earthenware, rim sherd from cream ware teacup or sauceboat
Totals	1	3	18	1	2	5	1	6	3	

Table 2: Summary of retained post-medieval pottery by context and fabric

Imported pottery comprises a body sherd of German stoneware, three joining sherds of tin-glazed earthenware and several sherds of porcelain with hand-painted decoration. The largest group of coarseware derives from South Somerset. Most of this material is 17th or 18th century in date, but there are two sherds of South Somerset type which date from the 15th/16th century.

6.4 Glass

Two glass items (444g) were retained. The first was a complete bottle from context 500, topsoil Trench 5. This is an industrially-made clear food bottle of earlier 20th century date with moulded ribs. The other fragment is a piece of lead crystal wine glass stem which was recovered from topsoil in Trench 4. This dates from the 19th century.

6.5 Clay tobacco-pipe

Two clay tobacco-pipe fragments (14g) were retained. One of these, from context 800, topsoil Trench 8, is a complete bowl fragment dating from c. 1700-70. The other fragment is a piece of stem from context 400 which has glaze splashed along one side.

6.6 **Animal bones** by Charlotte Coles

Three fragments (16g) of unidentifiable mammal long bone were recovered from gully F704.

7. **DISCUSSION**

7.1 The results of the trench evaluation largely support the geophysical survey interpretation, in that the linear anomalies were mainly found to be features that relate to rural activities in relation to the drainage of the agricultural landscape; these appear to be on the whole modern, rather than historic or ancient, in date. However, gully F704 and tree throw F903, were not identified by the geophysical survey.

7.2 Large tree throw F903 was uncovered in Trench 9 in the south part of Plot 2. It was extremely irregular in form with clear root holes. Its fill contained one sherd of worn pottery of Bronze Age date. This represents some activity in the general area during the Bronze Age, although no sites of this date have been previously identified in the immediate environs and this should be regarded as a chance find, rather than evidence of settlement on the site itself. A Bronze Age enclosure has recently been excavated at Station Hill, Chudleigh, 1.3km to the southwest of the current site and Bronze Age pottery has also been recovered from the area of Chudleigh Rocks, a similar distance to the south (Rainbird 2017, forthcoming).

7.3 The east-west aligned gully F704 in Trench 7 is cut from the level of the agricultural subsoil and runs parallel with the historic field boundaries, including one to the south which was removed in the first half of the 20th century and was identified by the previous geophysical survey (No. 7 on Fig. 1). The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation Project finds that in this location the field pattern was laid out in the 18th and 19th centuries (Devon County Council 2018). The gully may have been related to a further post-medieval division of the fields or, more probably, was used to assist in the drainage of the field, which, given the number of land drains uncovered, has clearly been of concern to those involved in the agricultural exploitation of the fields. The post-medieval pottery recovered from the gully and from overlying deposits across the site is probably derived from manuring for agricultural purposes in close proximity to, but beyond the limits of, contemporary settlement.

8. **CONCLUSIONS**

8.1 The features related to linear anomalies interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey and found across the site have been shown to relate to an agricultural landscape of ditches for field boundaries and drainage.

8.2 A single find of a sherd of Bronze Age pottery from a natural feature in Trench 9 indicates activity of that date in the broader area, but no evidence for contemporary settlement or funerary use of the site was identified.

8.3 A gully identified in Trench 7 matches the current field pattern and was probably dug as an aid to drainage.

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 **ACD1302** and Royal Albert Memorial Museum temporary reference number **RAMM: 18/30**. It will be held until all phases of work have been completed, the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and whether the creation of a digital archive for depositing with the Archaeology Data Service is required.

9.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **317923**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

10. REFERENCES

BGS, 2017, *British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Online Viewer*, 2018, (www.bgs.ac.uk).

Devon County Council, 2018, *Devon Historic Environment Viewer* (www.map.devon.gov.uk/DCCviewer).

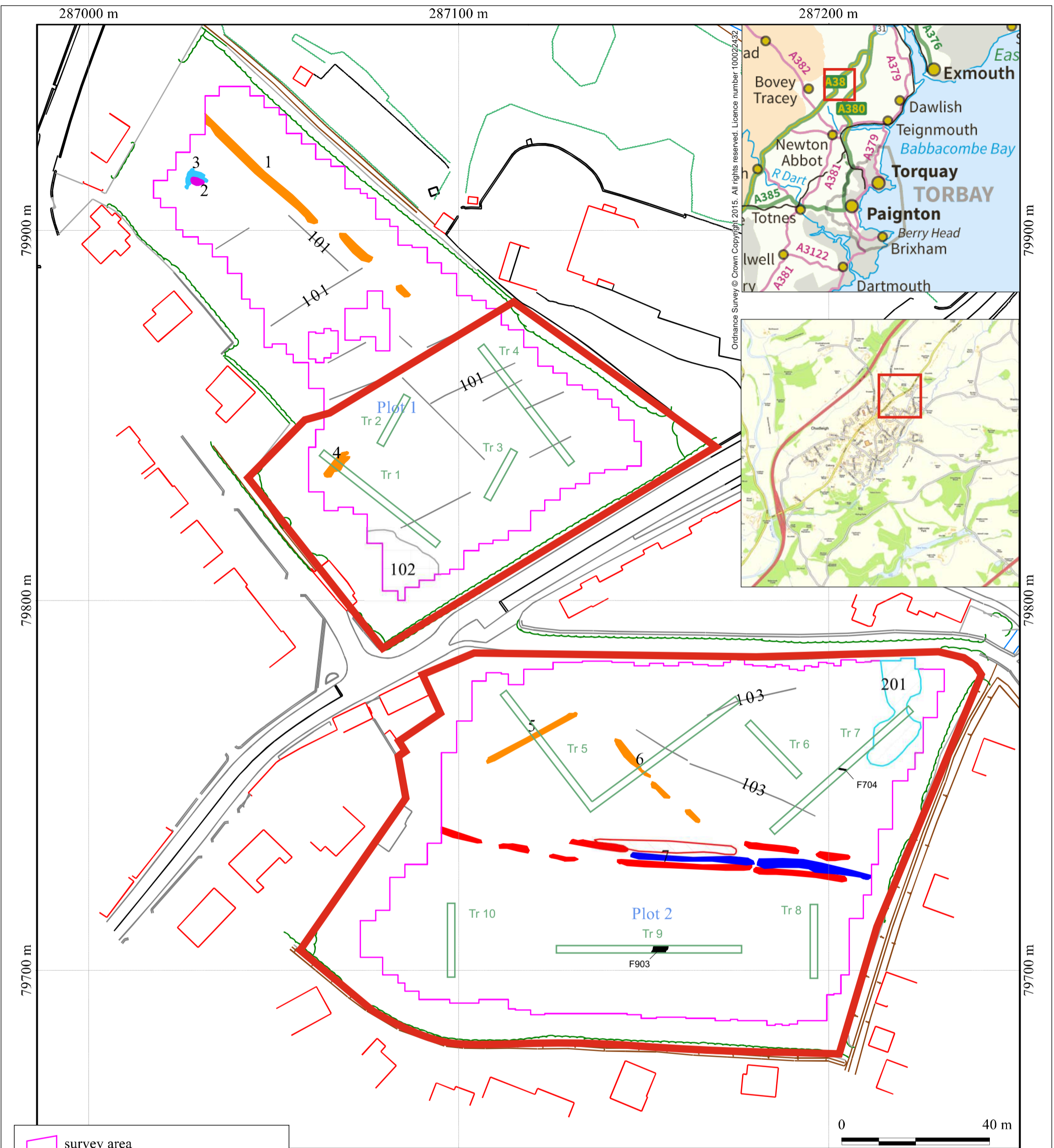
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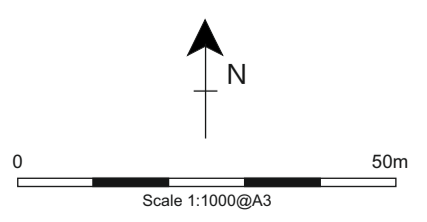


- survey area
- Potential archaeology**
- certainty, anomaly type (2)*
- likely positive (3)
- likely negative (3)
- likely positive spread (3)
- possible positive
- possible negative
- possible north-south high-low
- Potential services & modern**
- certainty, anomaly type*
- possible, regular narrow linear
- possible, regular narrow linear (4)
- Potential natural deposits**
- certainty, anomaly type (2)*
- possible, sinuous

Key

Application boundary

Excavated trenches with archaeological features shown



Geophysical survey: Copyright Substrata 2016.
 Base map: Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2016,
 Licence number 100022432. All rights reserved.

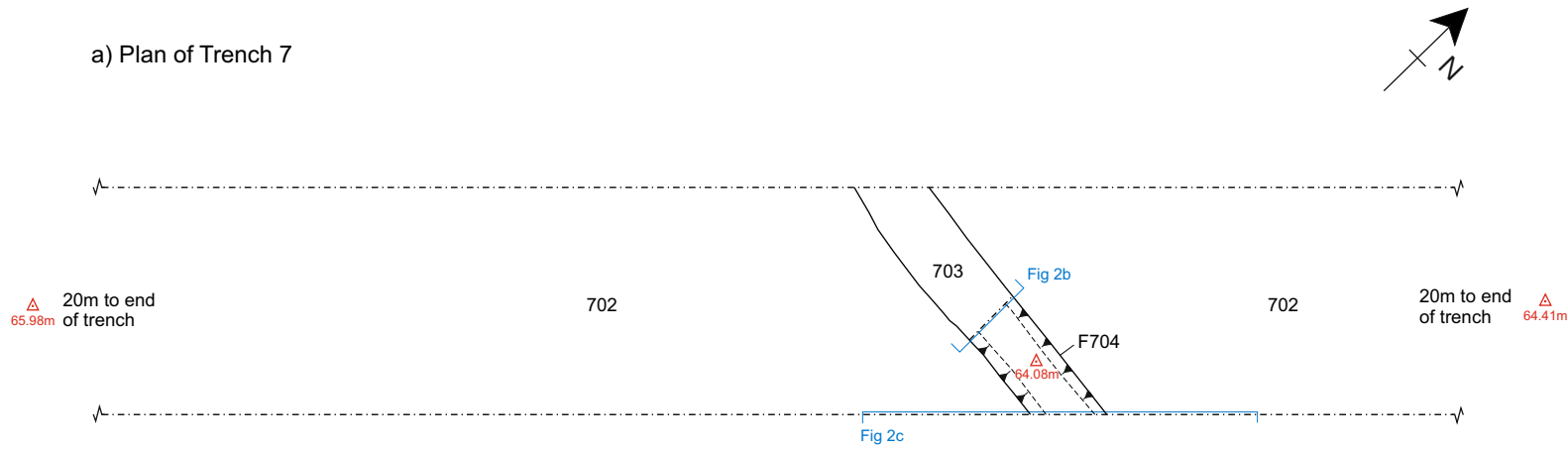
British Grid
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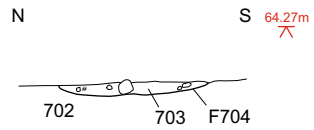
PROJECT
 Land at Colway Lane and Grovelands,
 Chudleigh, Devon

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

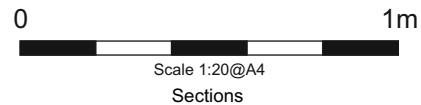
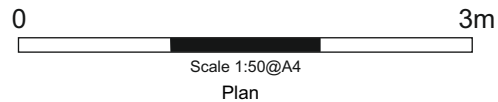
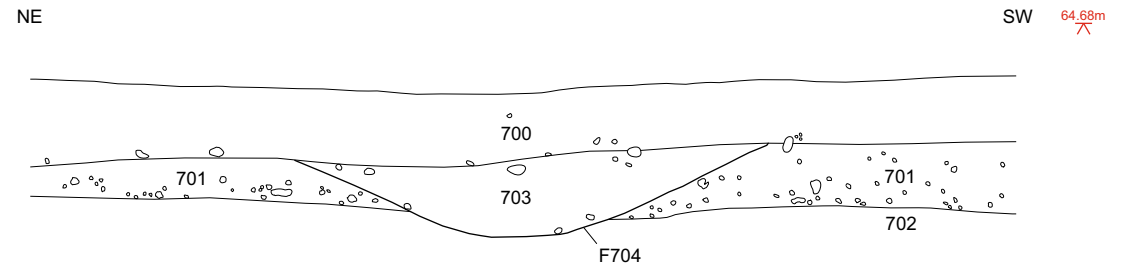
a) Plan of Trench 7



b) Section of gully F704



c) Section of gully F704



PROJECT

Land at Colway Lane and Grovelands, Chudleigh, Devon

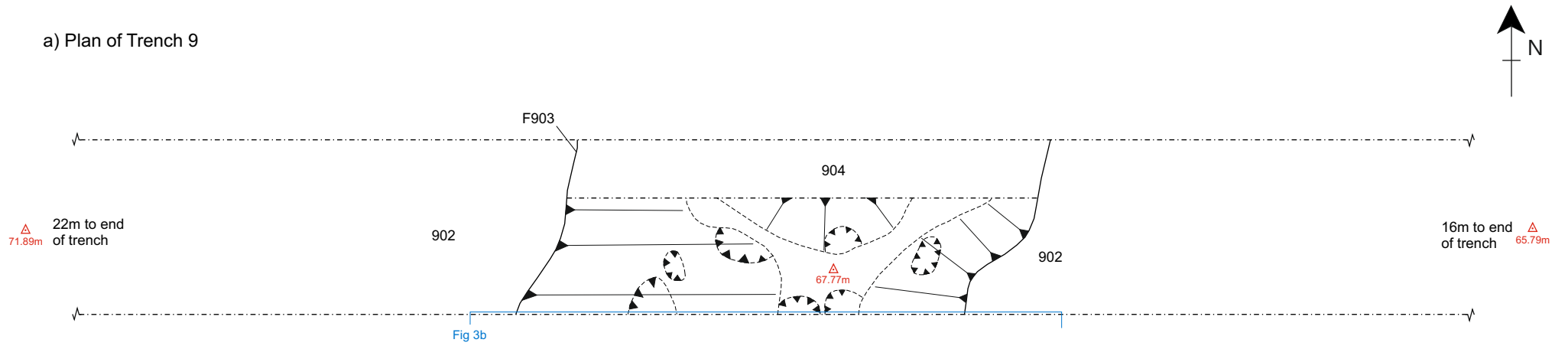
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Fig. 2: Trench 7, plan and sections

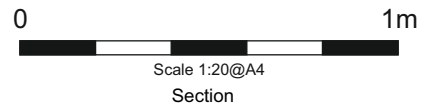
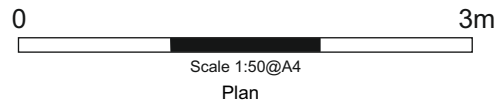
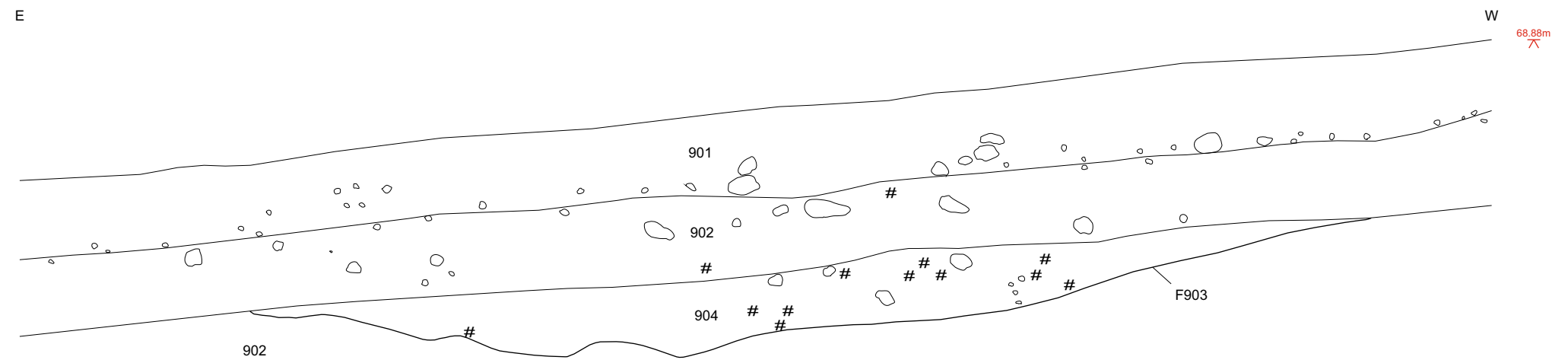


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a) Plan of Trench 9



b) Section of tree throw F903



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Land at Colway Lane and
Grovelands, Chudleigh, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 3: Trench 9, plan and section





Plate 1: General view of Plot 1 in the vicinity of Trench 2, looking south



Plate 2: General view of Plot 2, looking west



Plate 3: Trench 7, northwest-facing section of gully F704 (1m scale)



Plate 4: Trench 9, tree throw F903, looking west (1m scale)

Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	1.6m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.21m	Topsoil	
101	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.21-0.32m	Agricultural subsoil	
102	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.32m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length	Width	Alignment
		15m	1.6m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.19m	Topsoil	
201	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.19-0.28m	Agricultural subsoil	
202	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.28m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length	Width	Alignment
		15m	1.6m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.18m	Topsoil	
301	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.18-0.28m	Agricultural subsoil	
302	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.28m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 4		Length	Width	Alignment
		40m	1.6m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.22m	Topsoil	
401	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.22-0.35m	Agricultural subsoil	
402	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.35m+	Natural subsoil	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 5		Length	Width	Alignment
		50m	1.6m	NE-SW
		40m		NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.18m	Topsoil	
501	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.18-0.44m	Agricultural subsoil	
502	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.44m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 6		Length	Width	Alignment
		20m	1.6m	NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
600	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.20m	Topsoil	
601	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.20-0.38m	Agricultural subsoil	
602	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.38m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 7		Length	Width	Alignment
		50m	1.6m	NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
700	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.43m	Topsoil	
701	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.43-0.64m	Agricultural subsoil	
702	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.64m+	Natural subsoil	
703	Mid greyish brown sandy clay, soft with rare sub-rounded pebbles	0.43-0.64m	Fill of F704	
F704	Linear feature, shallowly sloping concave sides and a concave base	0.43-0.64m	Cut of drainage gully	

APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 8		Length	Width	Alignment
		20m	1.6m	N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
800	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.28m	Topsoil	
801	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.28-0.54m	Agricultural subsoil	
802	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.54m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 9		Length	Width	Alignment
		50m	1.6m	E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
900	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
901	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.26-0.64m	Agricultural subsoil	
902	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.64m+	Natural subsoil	
F903	Irregular feature, shallowly sloping irregular sides with an irregular base	0.64-0.95m	Naturally formed tree throw.	
904	Dark brown silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular fine gravel to pebbles and rare charcoal flecking	0.64-0.95m	Fill of F903	

Trench 10		Length	Width	Alignment
		20m	1.6m	N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
1000	Mid brownish grey, sandy loam, friable with rare sub-angular gravels	0-0.26m	Topsoil	
1001	Mid grey clayey loam, friable with occasional sub-angular gravels	0.26-0.42m	Agricultural subsoil	
1002	Light brownish yellow silty clay, friable with occasional sub-angular gravel to cobbles	0.42m+	Natural subsoil	

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