

# LAND AT DAINTON CROSS, MARLDON ROAD, IPPLEPEN, DEVON

(NGR SX 8500 6644)

## Results of an Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Planning Reference: Teignbridge District Council  
18/01225/FUL

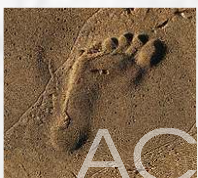
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Prepared by:  
Simon Hughes

On behalf of:  
Ranjit Farming Ltd

Report No: ACD1888/2/0

Date: August 2018



archaeology

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Client	Ranjit Farming Ltd.
Report Number	ACD1888/2/0
Date	21 August 2018
Status	Version 1
Report Author(s)	Simon Hughes
Checked by	Naomi Payne
Approved by	Simon Hughes

### **Acknowledgements**

The evaluation was commissioned by Ranjit Farming Ltd. The site works were carried out by Simon Hughes, with assistance from Naomi Kysh. Illustrations for this report were prepared by Leon Cauchois. The advice of Stephen Reed, Devon County Council Senior Archaeology Officer is gratefully acknowledged.

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

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## Summary

*An archaeological trench evaluation was undertaken by AC archaeology during August 2018 on land at Dainton Cross, Marldon Road, Ipplepen, Devon (NGR SX 8500 6644). Work comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totalling 60m long, with each trench 1.6m wide.*

*The site was located in an area recently discovered as having extensive Iron Age and Romano-British settlement evidence.*

*The results from the trench evaluation were negative with no evidence for the extension of the known Iron Age and Romano-British activity into the site.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation carried out to provide supporting information for a planning application for a new fodder and machinery store was undertaken by AC archaeology during August 2018 on land at Dainton Cross, Marldon Road, Ipplepen Devon (SX 8500 6644). The work was required by Teignbridge District Council following consultation with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHEM).
- 1.2 The site lies 0.5km to the southeast of Ipplepen and to the south of Marldon Road on the southwest side of Dainton Cross (Fig. 1). It comprises part of a wider rectangular pasture plot and farmyard occupied by existing agricultural buildings. The site is situated at 93m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) mainly on ground that slopes gradually to the northeast, while the portion within the farmyard is flat (Plate 1). Its underlying solid geology comprises mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone of the Nordon Formation ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies adjacent to an extensive area of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, which extends to the west and north of Dainton Cross and has been identified by geophysical survey, trial trenches and ongoing excavations led by Exeter University (Devon Historic Environment Record ref. MDV81301). Here, evidence for enclosures, a trackway and cemetery have been so far recorded with an occupational date range between the 1st to 2nd centuries BC until the 4th century AD. Further investigations carried out ahead of the construction of agricultural buildings immediately to the west of Dainton Cross exposed a large pit dated to the Romano-British period and thought to represent possible slate extraction (Farnell 2007).
- 2.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording carried out in 2016 immediately adjacent to the present site (Patkai 2016) recorded a ditch terminal or pit, which contained a single fragment of Roman tile. Recent XRF analysis of the tile has established that it derives from a suspected late second to mid-third century kiln source in the east of the county (Stephen Rippon pers. comm.).

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the trial trench evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, character and date of any archaeological features, deposits or finds within the site. The results from this work will be used to inform the DCCHEM on whether further site work would be appropriate should planning consent be granted.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The trench evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2018) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised December 2014). It comprised the machine-excavation of four trenches totaling 60m in length and with each trench 1.6m wide. Trenches were positioned to provide a sample coverage of the proposed application area.
- 4.2 The removal of soils within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits (maximum) under the control and direction of a site archaeologist. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed.
- 4.3 All features and deposits exposed 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).

## 5. RESULTS (Plan Fig. 1: Plates 2-4)

- 5.1 Natural subsoil, which comprised mudstone bedrock or weathered mudstone in a mid-yellow silty-clay matrix, was exposed at a depth of between 0.15m in Trench 1 and 1.4m in Trenches 2 and 4. Trench 1, was located in the farmyard area and comprised bedrock overlain by hardcore gravels and crushed concrete. In Trenches 2 and 4, the natural subsoil was overlain by subsoil and topsoil, which was then sealed by dumped deposits of re-deposited natural subsoil and topsoil. These had been deposited in 2016 during the construction of the adjacent agricultural building. In Trench 3, which was beyond the limit of the recent dumping, the natural subsoil was overlain by subsoil and topsoil.
- 5.2 No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were exposed in any of the trenches and no pre-modern finds recovered. A large modern intrusion representing a possible pit containing loose mudstone rubble with concrete blocks was exposed in Trench 4. This cut through the original topsoil and subsoil and was then sealed by the recent dumped deposits.
- 5.3 Detailed context descriptions are set out by trench in Appendix 1.

## 6. COMMENTS

- 6.1 The results from the trial trenches were negative with no evidence for a continuation of the previously known Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the vicinity of Dainton Cross exposed within the application area.
- 6.2 The results demonstrated variable levels of modern impact across the site. In the farmyard area that was investigated by Trench 1, the bedrock was likely to have been previously levelled, while the large modern intrusion exposed in Trench 3 occupied the majority of its length. The function of this was not clear but it was of probable late 20th century date. Elsewhere intact agricultural soils were present as exposed in Trenches 2 and 3.
- 6.3 The recently dumped stone rubble and topsoil exposed in Trenches 2 and 3 had served to create a gently-sloping terrace along the northwest portion of the site. This had masked a more steeply-sloping gradient that would have been present prior to 2016.

## 7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 7.1 The 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 **ACD1888**. It will be held under the temporary museum accession reference **RAMM 18/43** until the need for any further archaeological work on the site is established and ultimately will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.
- 7.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **326409** which includes a digital copy of this report.

## 8. REFERENCES

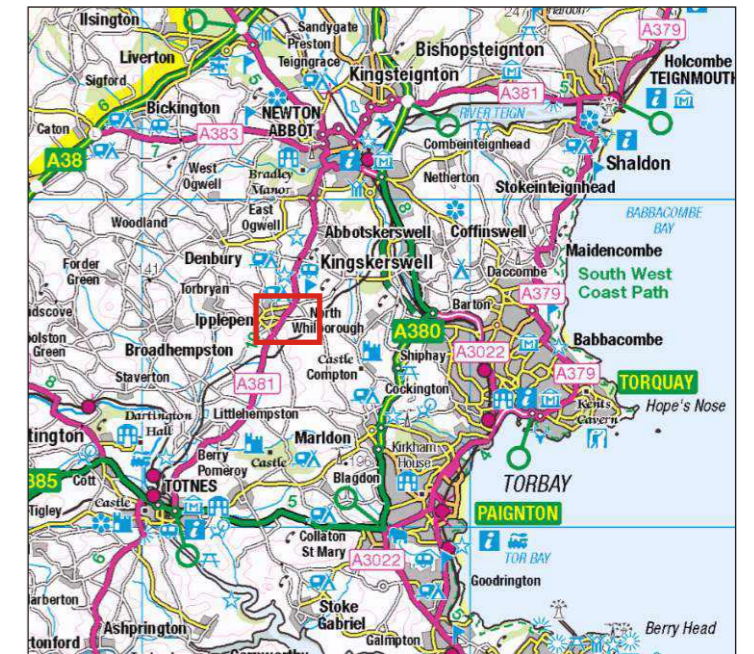
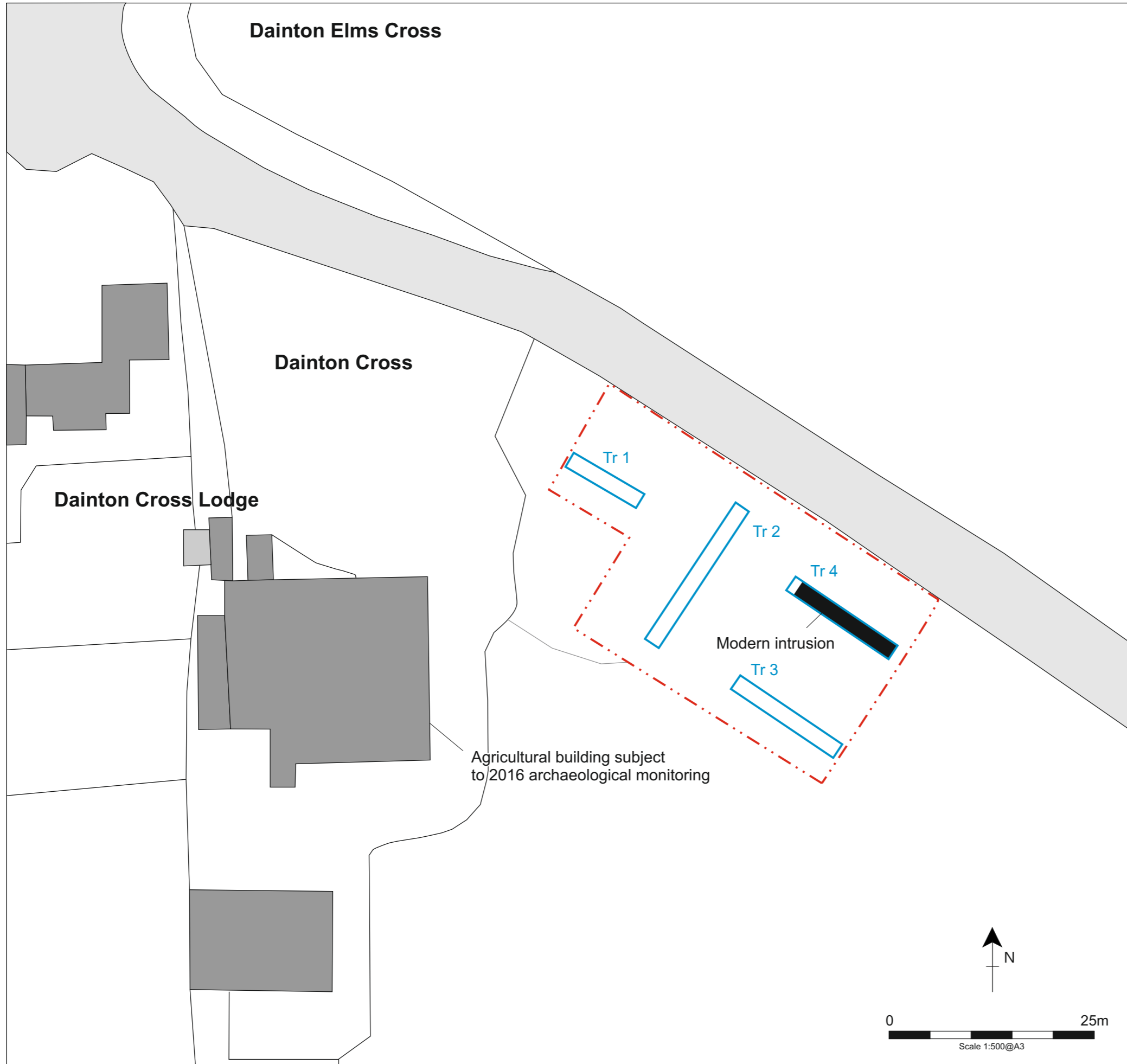
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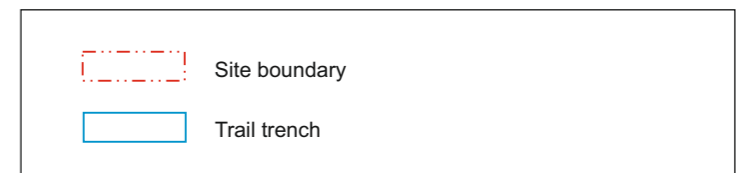
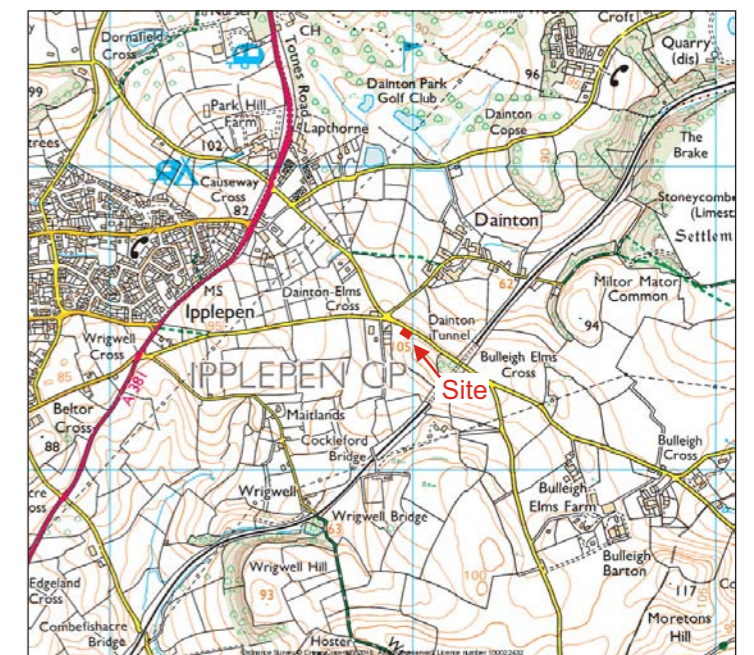
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PROJECT  
Land at Dainton Cross, Marldon Road, Ipplepen, Devon

TITLE  
Fig. 1: Location of site and trial trenches





Plate 1: General working view of site. Looking northwest



Plate 2: Trench 1, view to northwest (scale 1m)





Plate 3: Trench 2, view to northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Trench 2 representative section showing recently dumped stone and topsoil overlying original soils. View to northwest (scale 1m)

# Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions by Trench



## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Trench 1		Length 10m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Mixed crushed stone and concrete hardcore	0-0.15m	Farmyard surface	
101	Mudstone bedrock	0.15m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 20m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Mid brown silty-loam	0-0.18m	Modern dumped topsoil	
201	Mudstone rubble in a light brown clayey-loam matrix	0.18-1.04m	Made ground	
202	Mid greyish-brown silty-loam	1.04-1.14	Buried topsoil	
203	Mid yellowish-brown clayey-loam	1.14-1.4m	Subsoil	
204	Mudstone bedrock and weathered bedrock in a mid yellow silty-clay matrix	1.4m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 3		Length 15m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
300	Mid greyish-brown silty-loam	0-0.12m	Topsoil	
301	Mid yellowish-brown clayey-loam	0.12-0.58m	Subsoil	
302	Weathered mudstone bedrock in a mid yellow silty-clay matrix	0.58m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 4		Length 15m	Width 1.6m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
400	Mid brown silty-loam	0-0.6m	Modern dumped topsoil	
401	Dark grey silty loam	0.6-0.8m	Made ground	
402	Mudstone rubble in a light brown clayey-loam matrix	0.8-0.9m	Made ground	
F403	Large cut with steeply sloping sides	0.9-1.4m+	Cut of modern intrusion	
404	Mid greyish-brown silty-loam	0.9-1m	Buried topsoil	
F405	Mid yellowish-brown clayey-loam	1-1.4m	Subsoil	
406	Mid greyish-yellow, firm, silty clay	0.9-1.4m	Fill of modern intrusion	
407	Weathered mudstone bedrock in a mid yellow silty-clay matrix	1.4m+	Natural subsoil	

### Devon Office

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

Telephone: 01392 882410

### Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581

Fax: 01747 820440

[www.acarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.acarchaeology.co.uk)