TIVERTON GOLF CLUB, POST HILL, TIVERTON, DEVON

(Centred on NGR SS 9915 1357)

Results of archaeological investigations

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> With a contribution from: Naomi Payne

> > On behalf of: Tiverton Golf Club

> > > Report No: ACD2193/2/1

Date: February 2020



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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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CONTENTS

Summary	V

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	3
6.	The finds	4
7.	Comments	4
8.	Archive and OASIS	4
9.	References	5

List of figures

- Fig. 1: Location of site, test pits and trial trench in relation to geophysical survey results
- Fig. 2: Area A, proposed development plan with location of test pits and profiles shown
- Fig. 3: Area B, proposed development plan with location of test pits and profiles shown
- Fig. 4: Area C, proposed development plan with location of test pits and profiles shown
- Fig. 5: Profiles

List of plates

- Plate 1: General view of Area A, looking north along Profile 1
- Plate 2: Area A, showing representative section of overlying subsoil and topsoil, Test pit 6
- Plate 3: Area A, Test Pit 2, showing overlying soil profile including buried soil at base. View to east
- Plate 4: General view of Area B, looking southeast along Profile 3
- Plate 5: Area B, Test pit 15. View to north
- Plate 6: Area B, looking northwest along Profile 4, with Test pit 17 in foreground
- Plate 7: General working view of Area C, Profiles 5 and 6, looking north
- Plate 8: Area C, showing dumped deposits in Test pit 23. View to northwest
- Plate 9: Area C, looking southwest along Profile 7, with Test pit 33 in foreground
- Plate 10: Area D, Trench 1. View to northwest

Appendices

Appendix 1: Tabulated context descriptions by area

Summary

Archaeological investigations comprising test pitting and a trial trench evaluation were undertaken by AC archaeology during December 2019 at Tiverton Golf Club, Post Hill, Tiverton, Devon (centered on NGR SS 9915 1357). The established golf course comprises an approximately 40-hectare parcel of land situated on land that slopes generally to the northwest and southeast from a central ridge. Investigations comprised the machine excavation of 33 test pits, with each test pit between 2m and 3.4m long and 1.5m wide. The test pits were positioned in linear transects to establish profiles of soil cover across three areas of proposed landscaping. The evaluation comprised the excavation of a single 10m long trial trench, positioned in the area of further proposed development.

A previous geophysical survey had been undertaken on the site. The results from this showed the presence of numerous linear anomalies, many of which correspond with former boundaries shown on the 1838 Halberton parish tithe map. These were considered to include parts of strip field systems of probable medieval origin.

The excavation of the test pits established the depth of soil cover in each of the proposed landscaping areas. In general, the natural subsoil was overlain by a simple sequence of subsoil and topsoil. This sequence was shown to vary in one location, where an undated thin buried soil was present. No archaeological features were exposed in the test pits or trial trench. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil layers.

1. INTRODUCTION

- **1.1** Archaeological investigations comprising test pitting and a trial trench evaluation were carried out at Tiverton Golf Club, Post Hill, Tiverton, Devon (centred on SS 9915 1357) by AC archaeology during December 2019. The archaeological investigations were undertaken to provide supporting information for forthcoming planning applications, following consultation with the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (hereafter DCCHET).
- **1.2** Tiverton Golf Club lies to the east of Tiverton on land bounded by Uplowman Road and the A361 North Devon Link Road to the north, the Grand Western Canal to the east and Post Hill to the south (Fig. 1). The established golf course comprises an approximately 40-hectare parcel of land situated on land that slopes generally to the northwest and southeast from a central ridge situated at around 115m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The underlying solid geology comprises sandstone of the Tidcombe Sand Member, which is overlain in the central portion of the site by sand and gravel river terrace deposits (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- **1.3** Proposed development to the golf course will comprise soil importation to improve the landscape and playing conditions in three locations (Areas A-C on Fig. 1) and improvements to groundskeeper's facilities, which would be subject to a separate planning application (Area D).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is situated in an area containing extensive evidence for prehistoric activity. This includes a nearby Neolithic long barrow (Historic England National Heritage List for England reference 1019058,), which lies to the north of Uplowman Road, some 250m to the west of the golf club. The land around the long barrow has been subject to recent archaeological investigations associated with the construction of a new

junction on the A361. The investigations associated with the road construction recorded a series of pits containing a Late Neolithic finds assemblage that included worked flint, Grooved Ware pottery and a stone axe (Farnell 2018; Rainbird and Quinnell 2018). Post Road to the south of the site is considered to represent the approximate route of a Roman road extending between Tiverton and Halberton (Devon County Council Historic Environment Record reference MDV73973).

- **2.2** The site contains a single non-designated heritage asset (MDV73980), with this comprising the remnants of a medieval strip field system as shown on the 1838 Halberton parish tithe map. This is depicted as a series of northwest to southeast aligned plots extending from the southeast portion of the site within Area C. A building is also shown within the strip field system and on the north edge of the current Area C (Fig. 1). This is named simply as 'Orchard' in the accompanying apportionment.
- **2.3** As part of this work a geophysical survey has been undertaken of Areas A-C (Edwards and Trick 2020). The results from this showed the presence of numerous linear anomalies, many of which correspond with former boundaries shown on the 1838 Halberton parish tithe map. These included the strip field system described above, which were present in Area C but no evidence for the building. Further evidence for strip fields were also interpreted in Areas A and B.

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of the archaeological test pits was to the assess the depth and composition of soils across Areas A-C, with the information from this used in conjunction with the results from the previous geophysical survey to assess the impact of the proposed development. The general aim of all investigations 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 investigations will be reviewed and used to inform any subsequent mitigation and whether or not the significance and state of survival of any buried archaeological remains is great enough to influence the layout of the proposed development should planning consent be obtained.

4. METHODOLOGY

- **4.1** All works were undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2020) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' document, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (revised December 2014). It comprised the machine-excavation of 33 test pits, with each test pit between 2m and 3.4m long and 1.5m wide. The test pits were positioned to provide linear profiles of soil cover across each of the areas. The evaluation trench was excavated in Area D. This measured 10m long and 1.5m wide.
- **4.2** All trenches were located with a Leica Netrover GPS accurate to 1cm. The removal of soils within the trenches was undertaken in 20cm spits (maximum) under the control and direction of the 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 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 or 1:20, while all site levels relate to Ordnance Datum (OD).

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

The results from the test pits excavated in Areas A-C and the trial trench excavated in Area D are presented in tabulated form in Appendix 1 and are summarised by area below. Natural subsoil varied between clay to clayey sand with gravels.

5.2 Area A (Plan Fig. 2 and Profiles Figs 5a-b; Plates 1-3)

Two test pit transects were excavated in Area A (Profiles 1 and 2). These were positioned within a fairway on ground that slopes down moderately steeply to the north (Plate 1). In Profile 1, the natural subsoil was exposed at a depth that ranged between 0.25m (Test pit 1) and 0.58m (Test pit 4) below existing levels. The natural subsoil was overlain by a general sequence of a silty clay subsoil and a silty clay loam topsoil (Plate 2). However, for Test pit 1 there was no subsoil present, while in Test pits 2 and 3, the subsoil overlay a mid greyish brown clay loam buried soil, which was 0.08m to 0.16m thick (Plate 3).

- **5.3** In Profile 2, the three test pits exposed a consistent overlying subsoil and topsoil sequence of between 0.29m and 0.54m thick. One sherd of 17th to 18th century pottery was recovered from the subsoil in Test pit 3
- 5.4 Area B (Plan Fig. 3 and Profiles Figs 5c-d; Plates 4-6) Two northwest to southeast aligned test pit transects were excavated in Area B (Profiles 3 and 4), which were situated on ground that slopes moderately steeply to the northwest. Except for Test pit 15, the test pits in Area B were situated within the fairway or adjacent deeper grass (rough) (Plate 4). In Profile 3, the natural subsoil was exposed at a depth that ranged between 0.26m (Test pit 12) and 0.54m (Test pit 10) below subsoil (present in Test pits 10, 11 and 14) and topsoil layers. Test pit 15 was in a scrub covered area. Here, the natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of 1m beneath a dumped silty clay made ground layer (Plate 5).
- **5.5** The natural subsoil in Profile 4 was exposed at a depth of between 0.34m (Test pit 17) and 0.45m (Test pit 16) below existing levels (Plate 6). In Test pits 18-20, the natural subsoil was overlain by subsoil and topsoil, while for the remaining test pits (16, 17 and 21), the natural subsoil was sealed by topsoil.
- 5.6 Area C (Plan Fig. 4 and Profiles Figs 5e-g; Plates 7-9) Area C was in the southeast portion of the site on flattish ground. Three transects were excavated in Area C (Profiles 5-7). Profiles 5 and 6 were situated in a triangular area used for dumping spoil and materials (Plate 7). For most of the test pits in this area, the natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of up to 0.8m below dumped silty clays and clays (Plate 8). The test pits close to the perimeter of the area (Test pits 22 and 25) exposed the natural subsoil at a depth of between 0.34m and 0.52m beneath topsoil.
- **5.7** Profile 7 was situated in a lightly wooded area between two fairways (Plate 9). The natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of between 0.4m (Test pit 33) and 0.58m (Test pit 31). Except for Test pit 30, which exposed root disturbed topsoil, the natural subsoil was overlain in each of the test pits by subsoil and topsoil. One sherd of pottery dated c. 1550-1700 was recovered from the subsoil in Test pit 33.
- 5.8 Area D (Plan Fig. 1; Plate 10) A single trial trench (Trench 1) was excavated on flat ground in Area D. In this, the natural subsoil was exposed at a depth of 0.4m below existing levels. It was overlain by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS By Naomi Payne

6.1 The only finds from the investigations were two sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing a total of 102g. Context 301, Test pit 3 subsoil, contained a body sherd of North Devon Gravel Free earthenware of probable 17th to 18th century date. Context 3301, Test pit 33 subsoil, produced a handle sherd from a Frechen stoneware jug dating from c. 1550-1700.

7. COMMENTS

- **7.1** The excavation of the test pits across Areas A-C has established the depth of soil cover in each of the proposed landscaping areas. In general, the natural subsoil was overlain by a simple sequence of subsoil and topsoil that was around 0.4m thick. This sequence was shown to vary in Test pits 2 and 3, where an undated thin buried soil was present at around 0.3m below existing levels.
- **7.2** Other variations were present on the upslope portions of Area A around Test pits 1 and 7, and in Area B around Test pits 12 and 13, where only topsoil of 0.25m to 0.3m thick was present. Elsewhere, modern dumping was present in Area B, Test pit 15 and across most of Area C, Profiles 5 and 6.
- **7.3** No archaeological features or deposits were exposed within the test pits or the trial trench and finds were limited to the two sherds of post-medieval pottery recovered from subsoil layers. The results from the geophysical survey has been shown to principally reflect the previously known probable medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape. As has been described above, the survey corresponds with strip fields shown on the 1838 Halberton parish tithe map in the part of the site covered by Area C, while the geophysical survey results suggest the potential for further such boundaries to be present in Areas A and B.
- **7.4** Based on the current development proposals for Areas A-C, the main groundworks will comprise the stripping of 0.1m of topsoil from each area of landscaping, followed by the importation of made ground material. Based on the results from the test pitting, the depth of the main groundworks are therefore unlikely to impact on archaeological features, which are suggested from the geophysical survey and corresponding historic mapping to consist principally of medieval and post-medieval agricultural boundaries. Localised impact on archaeological features and deposits may however be sustained, should deeper excavations such as drains etc. form part of the proposals.

8. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 8.1 This report forms the sole archive for the project.
- **8.2** An online OASIS entry has been completed using the unique number **377441**, which includes a digital version of this report.

9. **REFERENCES**

British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk

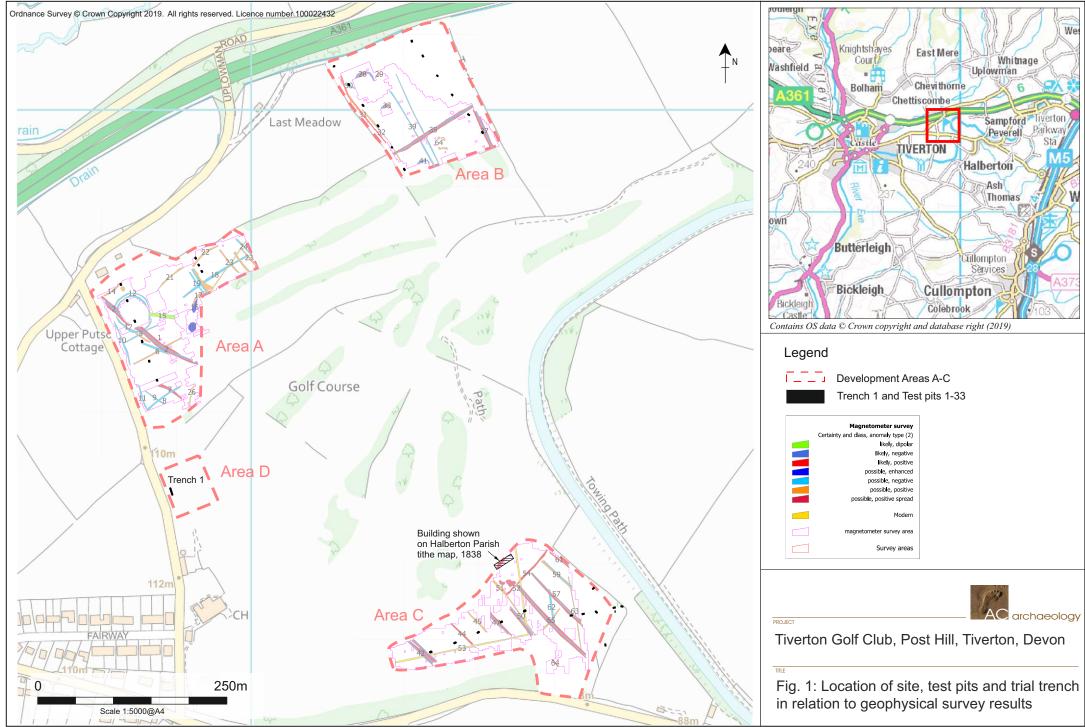
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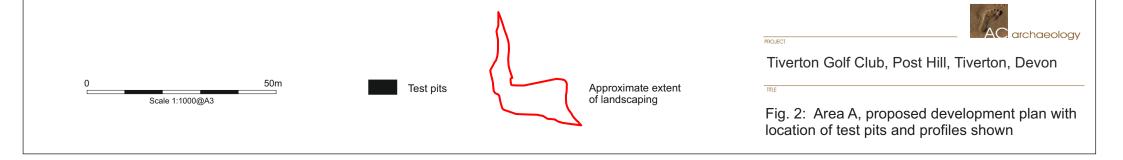
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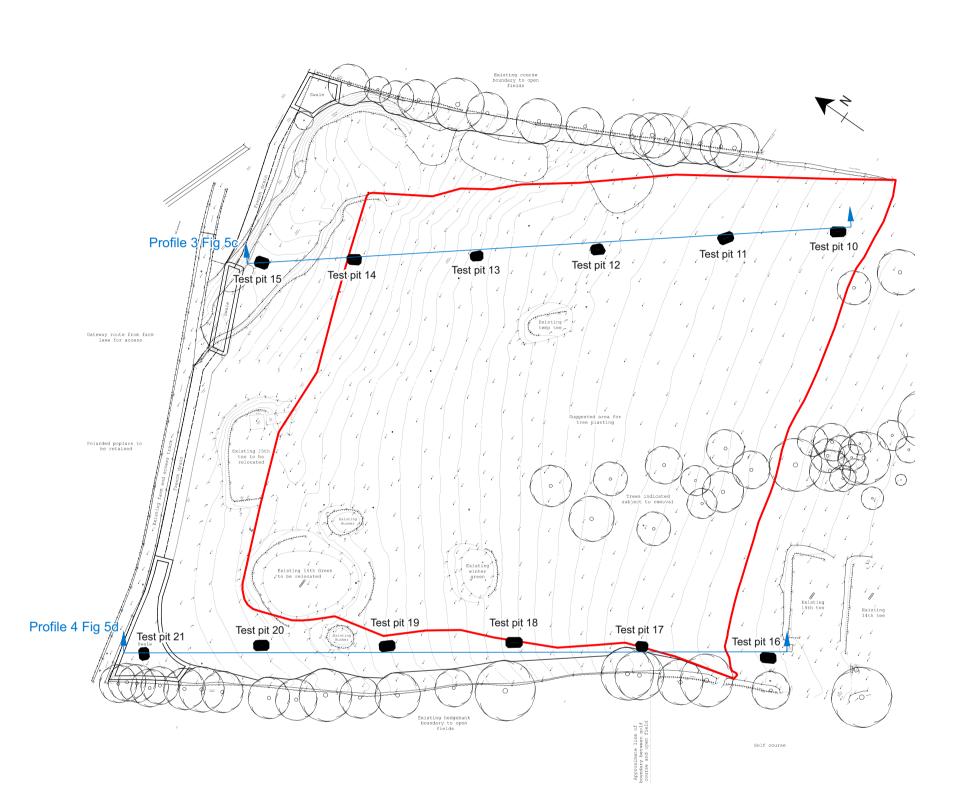
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A D

50m

Scale 1:1000@A3

Test pits

0



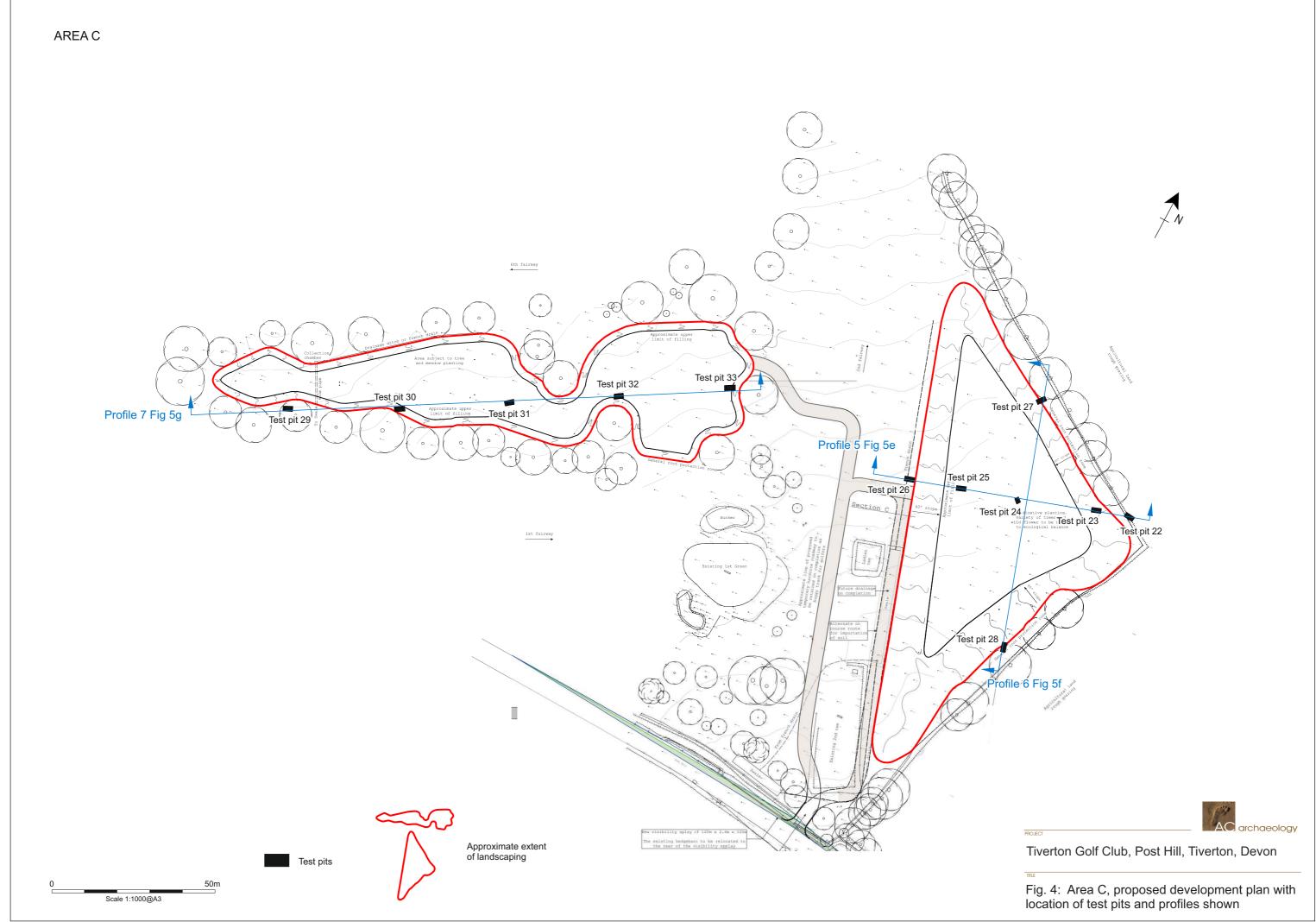
Tiverton Golf Club, Post Hill, Tiverton, Devon

Approximate extent of landscaping

TITLE

PROJECT

Fig. 3: Area B, proposed development plan with location of test pits and profiles shown



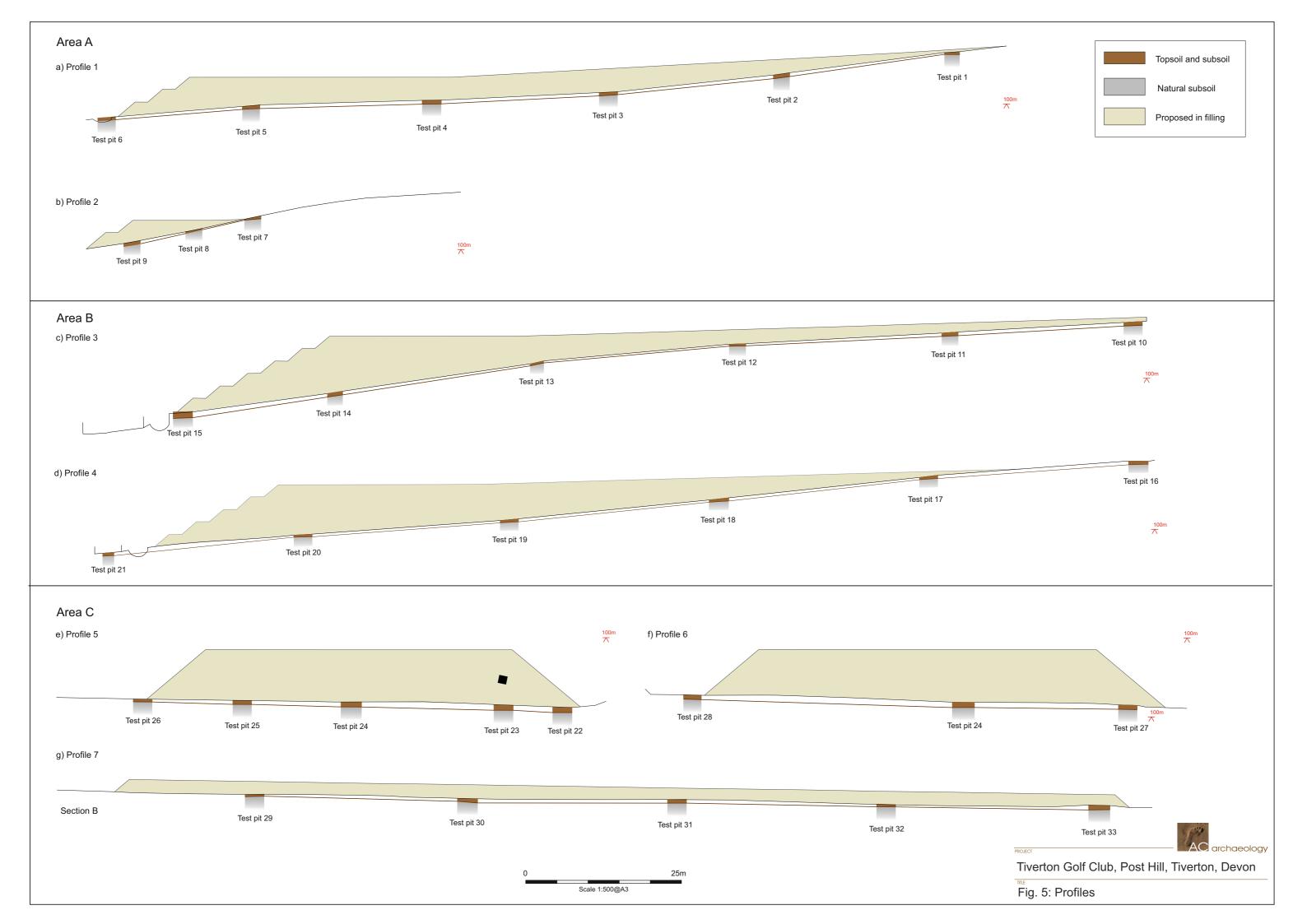




Plate 1: General view of Area A, looking north along Profile 1



Plate 2: Area A, showing representative section of overlying subsoil and topsoil, Test pit 6 (scales 0.4 and 1m)



Plate 3: Area A, Test Pit 2, showing overlying soil profile including buried soil at base. View to east (scale 1m)



Plate 4: General view of Area B, looking southeast along Profile 3





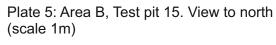








Plate 6: Area B, looking northwest along Profile 4, with Test pit 17 in foreground (scale 1m)

Plate 7: General working view of Area C, Profiles 5 and 6, looking north

Plate 8: Area C, showing dumped deposits in Test pit 23. View to northwest (scale_1m)





Plate 9: Area C, looking southwest along Profile 7, with Test pit 33 in foreground



Plate 10: Area D, Trench 1. View to northwest (scale 1m)



Appendix 1 Tabulated context descriptions by area



AREA A

Test pit 1		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
100	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.25m	Topsoil	
101	Mid yellowish-brown clay silt	0.25m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 2		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N -S
Context	Context Description		Interpretation	
200	Mid brown silty clay loam	0 – 0.1m	Topsoil	
201	Light-mid brown silty clay	0.1 – 0.34m	Subsoil	
202	Mid grey brown clay loam	0.34 – 0.5m	Buried soil	
203	Mid yellowish-brown clay silt	0.5m+	Natural subsoil	

Test pit 3		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
300	Mid brown silty clay loam	0 – 0.14m	Topsoil	
301	Light-mid brown silty clay	0.14 – 0.32m	Subsoil	
302	Mid grey brown clay loam	0.32 – 0.4m	Buried soil	
303	Mid yellowish-brown clay silt	0.4m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 4		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
400	Mid brown silty clay loam	0 – 0.48m	Topsoil	
401	Light-mid brown silty clay	0.48 – 0.58m	Subsoil	
402	Light brown clay	0.58m+	Natural	

Test pit 5		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
500	Mid brown silt clay loam	0 – 0.45m	Topsoil	
501	Light reddish-brown silty clay	0.45 – 0.55m	Subsoil	
502	Light red clay sand	0.55m+	Natural	

Test pit 6		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
600	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.2m	Topsoil	
601	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	0.2 – 0.48m	Subsoil	
602	Dark red clay	0.48m+	Natural s	subsoil

Profile 2

Test pit 7		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
700	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.12 m	Topsoil	
701	Mid grey brown silty clay	0.12 – 0.29m	Subsoil	
702	Dark yellow clay	0.29m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 8		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
800	Mid grey brown silt loam	0.0 – 0.26m	Topsoil	
801	Dark brown silty clay loam	0.26 – 0.4m	Subsoil	
802	Light yellowish-brown gravel	0.4m	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 9		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
900	Mid grey brown silt loam	0.0 – 0.16m	Topsoil	
901	Dark brown silty clay loam	0.16 – 0.54m	Subsoil	
902	Light yellowish-brown gravel	0.54m+	Natural s	ubsoil

AREA B

Test pit 10		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1000	Mid grey brown silt loam	0.0 – 0.16m	Topsoil	
1001	Dark brown silty clay loam	0.16 – 0.54m	Subsoil	
1002	Light yellowish-brown gravel	0.54m+	Natural s	subsoil

Test pit 11		Length	Width	Alignment
		2m	1.5m	N - S
Context Description		Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
	· ·		-	
1100	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.2m	Topsoil	
1101	Light-mid brown silty clay	0.2 – 0.45m	Subsoil	
1102	Dark red clay	0.45m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 12		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1200	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.26m	Topsoil	
1201	Dark red clay	0.26m+	Natural S	Subsoil

Test pit 13		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1300	Dark yellow brown clay loam	0.0 – 0.31m	Topsoil	
1301	Dark red clay	0.31m+	Natural S	Subsoil

Test pit 14		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1400	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.38m	Topsoil	
1401	Light-mid brown silty clay	0.3 – 0.5m	Subsoil	
1402	Dark red clay	0.5m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 15		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1500	Reddish yellow silty clay	0.0 – 1m	Dumped deposit / made ground	
1501	Dark red clay	1m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 16		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1600	Reddish brown sandy silty loam	0.0 – 0.45m	Topsoil	
1601	Light brown clay	0.45m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 17		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1700	Mid brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.34m	Topsoil	
1701	Dark red silty clay	0.34m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 18		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
1800	Reddish brown sandy silty loam	0.0 – 0.32m	Topsoil	
1801	Dark reddish-brown silty clay	0.32 – 0.38m	Subsoil	
1802	Mid yellow clay	0.38m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 19		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Context Description		Interpre	tation
1900	Reddish brown sandy silty loam	0.0 – 0.32m	Topsoil	
1901	Dark reddish-brown silty clay	0.32 – 0.44m	Subsoil	
1902	Mid yellow clay	0.44m+	Natural s	subsoil

Test pit 20		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2000	Reddish brown sandy silty loam	0.0 – 0.27m	Topsoil	
2001	Dark reddish-brown silty clay	0.27 – 0.39m	Subsoil	
2002	Mid yellow clay	0.39m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 21		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2100	Dark Red brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.38m	Topsoil	
2101	Mid yellow clay	0.38m+	Natural s	ubsoil

AREA C

Profiles 5 and 6

Test pit 22		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2200	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.34m	Topsoil	
2201	Dark pinkish red clay	0.34m+	Natural s	ubsoil

		Length 3m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context			Interpretation	
2300	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.4m	Overburg	len
2301	Mid red brown silty clay	0.4 – 0.6m	Dumped	deposit
2302	Dark grey brown silty loam	0.6 – 0.8m	Dumped deposit	
2303	Dark pinkish red clay	0.8m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 24		Length 3.2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S	
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpret	ation	
2400	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.2m	Topsoil		
2401	Mid grey sand	0.2 – 0.27m+	Dumped	deposit	
2402	Dark grey black silty sand	0.27 – 0.76m	Dumped	deposit	
2403	Mid pinkish red clay	0.27 – 0.7m	Dumped	Dumped deposit	
2404	Mid red brown silty clay	0.7m+	Natural s	ubsoil	

Test pit 25		Length 3.8m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2500	Mid red brown silty clay	0.0 – 0.52m	Topsoil	
2501	Dark pinkish red clay	0.52m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 26		Length 3.2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W	
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation		
2600	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.17m	Topsoil		
2601	Mid red brown silty clay	0.17 – 0.37m	Dumped deposit		
2602	Dark pinkish red clay	0.37m+	Natural s	ubsoil	

Test pit 27		Length 3.2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2700	Reddish brown clay silt	0.0 – 0.5m	Imported	topsoil
2701	Brownish red gritty silty sand	0.45 – 0.58m	Dumped deposit	
2702	Light red silty clay	0.58m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 28		Length 2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2800	Reddish brown silt loam	0.0 – 0.55m	Overburc	len / dumped deposit
2801	Brownish red silty clay	0.55 – 0.6m	Dumped deposit	
2802	Pinkish red clay	0.6m+	Natural s	ubsoil

		Length 3.4m	Width 1.5m	Alignment N - S
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
2900	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.26m	Topsoil	
2901	Mid red brown silty clay	0.26 – 0.48m	Subsoil	
2902	Dark pinkish red clay	0.48m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 30		Length 3.2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
3000	Reddish brown silty clay	0.0 – 0.45m	Topsoil	
3001	Light red silty clay	0.45m+	Natural s	ubsoil

		Length 2.9m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
3100	Greyish brown clay silt	0.0 – 0.1m	Topsoil	
3101	Reddish brown clay silt	0.1 – 0.58m	Subsoil	
3102	Light pinkish red silty clay	0.58m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 32		Length 3.2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
3200	Dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.0 – 0.35m	Topsoil	
3201	Mid red brown silty clay	0.35 – 0.53m	Subsoil	
3202	Dark pinkish red clay	0.53m+	Natural s	ubsoil

Test pit 33		Length 3.2m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
3300	Greyish brown clay silt	0.0 – 0.1m	Topsoil	
3301	Reddish brown clay silt	0.1 – 0.4m	Subsoil	
3302	Light pinkish red silty clay	0.4m+	Natural s	ubsoil

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Trial trench 1		Length 10m	Width 1.5m	Alignment E - W
Context	Description	Depth (b.g.s)	Interpretation	
3400	Reddish brown silt loam	0.0 – 0.22m	Topsoil	
3401	Greyish brown silty clay	0.22 – 0.35m	Subsoil	
3402	Light reddish-brown clayey sand	0.35m+	Natural subsoil	

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