

# LAND OFF NEWCOURT ROAD, TOPSHAM, EXETER

(NGR SX 9633 8907)

## Results of Archaeological Investigations

Planning Ref. Exeter City Council 18/1120/OUT  
(condition 6)

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On behalf of:  
SLR Consulting Ltd.

Report No: ACD2210/3/3

Date: November 2020



archaeology

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Report Authors	Simon Hughes and Naomi Kysh
Contributions from	Naomi Payne, Charlotte Coles and Cressida Whitton
Checked by	Paul Rainbird
Approved by	Simon Hughes

## **Acknowledgements**

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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

*Archaeological investigations were undertaken by AC archaeology between January and March 2020 on land off Newcourt Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon (SX 9633 8907). The site is located to the northeast of Topsham on land bound by Newcourt Road and the Exeter to Exmouth branch line. It lies in an area containing numerous sites of prehistoric and Romano-British date, many of which have been recorded during developments of plots fronting Exeter Road to the southwest. A previous geophysical survey identified the potential for a small number of linear anomalies thought to represent former agricultural boundaries. Investigations comprised the machine excavation of five trenches totalling 140m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide. These were positioned to target the results interpreted from the geophysical survey. Based on the results from the trial trenching, an area measuring approximately 30 square metres was then investigated.*

*The archaeological investigations exposed a small number of pits, a ditch and possible postholes. Although these were generally poorly dated due to a general lack of finds recovered and incompatible radiocarbon dates, the activity represented appears, at least in part, to date to the Roman to post-Roman and post-medieval periods. Several late Roman to post-Roman small glass and jet beads were recovered from two of the pits, as well as a very small quantity of undiagnostic cremated bone associated with burnt charcoal and charred plant remains. Although the general activity recorded was probably peripheral to late Roman to post-Roman settlement, the inclusion of the deposited beads and burnt material was considered to provide evidence that some form of ritualised association may also have been a factor.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological investigations carried out ahead of a residential development on land off Newcourt Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon (SX 9633 8907) was undertaken by AC archaeology between January and March 2020. The work was required by Exeter City Council as condition 6 of planning permission reference 18/1120/OUT, following consultation with the Exeter City Council Principal Project Manager (Heritage).
- 1.2 The site lies to the northwest of Topsham (Fig. 1). It comprises (what is currently) an approximately rectangular shaped 0.6-hectare parcel of land consisting of two pasture plots bounded by Newcourt Road to the southwest, the Exeter to Exmouth branch line to the northeast and residential plots extending to the southeast. The site lies on ground that slopes gradually to the southwest between 20m and 17m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with the underlying solid geology comprising sandstone of the Dawlish Sandstone Formation, which is beneath river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey Online Viewer).
- 1.3 This report supersedes an interim report (Hughes 2020) prepared following the trial trenching stage.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies in an area containing numerous sites of prehistoric and Romano-British date, many of which have been recorded during developments of plots fronting Exeter Road to the southwest. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity includes Late Neolithic pits and flints from the excavations in the nearby M5 corridor (Jarvis and Maxfield 1975) and during recent improvements to the Newport Mobile Home Park (Hughes 2017).

- 2.2** Topsham Road and the northwest part of Exeter Road represent the alignment of a Roman road extending from the Roman legionary fortress at Exeter to a probable port at Topsham. It diverged, and ran southeast, from Exeter Road at a point northwest of where the M5 crosses the present road. Excavations carried out in nearby Wessex Close recorded evidence for occupation throughout the later 1st to early 4th centuries AD (Farnell and Rainbird 2017). The main interest at this site was the remains of a large stone-footed building of Romano-British (mid-2nd century AD) date. Other Romano-British features on the site comprised a series of roadside and enclosure ditches, wells and ovens. Investigations by Cotswold Archaeology immediately northwest of the M5 on the site of the Aldi supermarket identified the remains of Roman military timber buildings, set back from the line of the Roman road (Garland and Orellana 2018).
- 2.3** As part of the current development proposals, the site has been subject to a geophysical survey (Edwards 2018). The results from this were interpreted as representing a former northwest to southeast aligned field boundary shown on historic maps, while further linear anomalies on the same alignment had the potential to represent further former divisions. A linear group of discrete anomalies towards the southwest of the site, was also arranged on a similar alignment as the linear anomalies, and were considered to have the same overall potential.

### **3. AIMS**

- 3.1** The principal aim of the investigations was to identify and preserve by record (through archaeological excavation) any archaeological features present in the area, which will be damaged or destroyed by the development.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1** All works were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Work prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd (SLR Consulting Ltd 2020), a supplementary method statement prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2020), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' documents, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (revised December 2014). It comprised the machine excavation of five trenches totalling 140m in length, with each trench 1.8m wide. Following the results of the trial trenching, an area measuring approximately 30 square metres was investigated. The locations of the archaeological investigations are shown on Fig. 1.
- 4.2** All investigation areas were located with a Leica Net rover 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 1:20 or 1:50, while all site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction (Fig.1; Plate 1)

Natural subsoil was exposed in each of the trenches and the excavation area and comprised a mid-red sand and gravel. The natural subsoil was separated from the overlying topsoil by an interface layer, which represented the upper weathered portion of the natural river gravels. Trenches 3 and 4 contained archaeological features. The results from Trench 4 are incorporated into the results from the excavation area. These are described below, while tabulated context descriptions for Trenches 1, 2 and 5 are provided in Appendix 1 only. Context numbers are prefixed by the relevant trench number (e.g. 100 for Trench 1, 300 for Trench 3 etc.).

### 5.2 Trench 3 (Detailed plan Fig. 2a and sections Figs 2b-d; Plates 2-4)

Trench 3 was in the middle of the site and positioned to target two linear anomalies interpreted from the previous geophysical survey. It was excavated onto natural subsoil (context 302), which was present at a depth of 0.44m beneath an interface layer (301) and topsoil (300). The trench contained two possible postholes (F303 and F305).

### 5.3 Possible postholes F303 and F305

Possible postholes F303 and F305 were present in the east portion of the trench. They measured 0.35m and 0.26m across and 0.14m and 0.05m deep, respectively. Both contained similar mid greyish brown sandy clay loam fills (304 and 306) with frequent gravel inclusions. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from fill 304.

### 5.4 Excavation area (Detailed plan Fig. 3 and sections Fig. 4; Plates 5-13)

Natural subsoil (401) was present in the excavation area at a depth of around 0.5m beneath interface (404) and topsoil layer (400). The excavation area contained six pits (F402, F405, F409, F411, F415 and F417) and a ditch (F427). Two further features were present (408 and 420), which were investigated and found to be the result of tree rooting.

### 5.5 Pit F402

Pit F402 measured 0.45m long, 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep with moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a dark greyish brown sandy clay fill (403), with abundant charcoal and occasional gravel and pebble inclusions. A glass bead and two fragments of iron rod as well as a small quantity of burnt and unburnt bone fragments were recovered from the pit. The results from an environmental sample provided an assemblage comprising a large quantity of largely oak charcoal, charred grain fragments, weed seeds, and a berry fragment. A charred grain fragment provided a post-medieval to modern radiocarbon date of 1634-1937 cal AD and as this date is incompatible with the finds the grain should be regarded as probably intrusive in this context.

### 5.6 Pit F405

Pit F405 was located approximately 3m to the northwest of pit F402. It measured 0.43m in diameter and 0.19m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The pit contained a mid reddish brown sandy loam fill (406), with occasional gravel and charcoal inclusions. Seven glass and possible jet beads were recovered, as well as two pieces of iron working hammerscale. An environmental sample of the pit yielded frequent charcoal pieces and some charred plant remains. A charred hazelnut shell fragment provided an Early Bronze Age radiocarbon dated of 2194-1981 cal BC and as this date is incompatible with the finds of iron and the nut shell fragment should be regarded as residual in this context.

**5.7** *Pit F409*

Pit F409 measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.19m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a dark brownish grey sandy loam fill (410), with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered. A charred seed fragment provided a post-medieval radiocarbon date of 1521-1799 cal AD.

**5.8** *Pit F411*

Oval pit F411 measured 0.31m long, 0.19m wide and 0.09m deep with moderately-steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mottled yellowish to dark greyish brown fill (412), with abundant gravel and rare charcoal fleck inclusions. No finds were recovered.

**5.9** *Pit F415*

Pit F415 measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.13m deep with steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish brown sandy clay fill (416), with occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered.

**5.10** *Pit F417*

Oval pit F417 measured 0.24m long, 0.12m wide and 0.05m deep with a gradual concave profile. It contained a mid yellowish brown sandy loam fill (418), with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered.

**5.11** *Ditch F427*

Northeast to southwest aligned ditch F427 measured approximately 16m in length and petered out at each end. Four segments were excavated into the ditch ([413], [421], [423] and [425]), which exposed it to measure between 0.27m and 0.44m wide and a maximum of 0.24m deep with a moderately steep concave profile. It contained a consistent mid reddish brown sandy loam fill. No finds were recovered.

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

**6.1** A total of eight tiny beads (2mm diameter) were recovered from adjacent pits F402 and F405. One of the beads was recovered from pit F402, context 403. This is made of black glass. Two short lengths of fine iron rod were also recovered from 403. These may originally have joined to form a rod about 12mm in length. The bead is likely to be of Roman date, and the iron rod, which is very narrow and probably broken at both ends, might also be a jewellery component, as beads were sometimes threaded onto lengths of metal wire to form necklaces and earrings during the Roman period (Birley 2012, 1).

**6.2** Seven beads were recovered from pit F405, context 406 (Plate 14). Two of these are also made from black glass and are similar to the one recovered from pit F402. In addition, five beads of comparable size, but hexagonal in plan, were recovered of which two are threaded onto a fine iron rod. These appear to be made from jet. The use of jet for jewellery and other objects is generally thought of as a late Roman phenomenon although there is evidence for jet working in York as early as the late second century AD (Allason-Jones 2011, 2). In Colchester almost all of the jet beads were recovered from 4th century or post-Roman contexts (Crummy 1983, 32-5).

**6.3** Context 406 also contained two pieces of possible hammerscale (<1g).

**6.4** A total of 19 very small pieces of bone (<1g) were recovered from context 403. These are a mixture of burnt and unburnt bone pieces. Unfortunately, due to the size and

fragmentary nature of the bone, it is not possible to ascertain if these are human or animal. The pieces that are burnt are calcined white, for bone to turn white it needs to be burnt at a temperature of at least 800°C (Wahl, 2008).

- 6.5** The remainder of the finds from the evaluation comprised pottery sherds of post-medieval date. Nine sherds (40g) were recovered from three contexts. The pottery includes seven sherds of 19th century Staffordshire-type white ware (including three sherds with transfer-print decoration) from context 100 (Trench 1 topsoil), a tin-glazed earthenware base from context 300 (Trench 3 topsoil) and a body sherd of South Somerset-type earthenware dating from the 17th or 18th century from context 304 (fill of possible posthole F303). The tin-glazed sherd derives from a small dish with a footring of probable late 17th century date. Almost all the glaze is missing from the internal surface so its decorative scheme cannot be discerned.

## **7. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT** by *Cressida Whitton*

### **7.1 Introduction**

Six environmental bulk samples were recovered during the investigations. These were taken from all the pits exposed in the excavation area. All the samples were processed by flotation and sieving in a siraf-type tank, using standard AC archaeology methods. The samples were not waterlogged and the dried flots (250/500 micron) and residues (5.6mm; 2mm and 500 micron) were assessed for environmental potential, including charcoal and charred plant macrofossils (CPM). The results are presented in Appendix 2.

### **7.2 Discussion**

Overall, the samples from the six pits exposed in the excavation area provided generally good results, with reasonable quantities and diversity of CPM and charcoal present in all six environmental samples processed. This was particularly evident in Samples 1 (403); 3 (410) and 5 (406). However, whilst the results demonstrate the presence of cereal grain concentrations and other diverse weed/domestic resource CPM, most CPM ecofacts were very poorly preserved and only two well-preserved breadwheat grains were present in Samples 1 and 4. The rest of the likely grain assemblage was highly fragmented, with no real structure.

- 7.3** Wood charcoal fragments were present in all the samples and were well preserved, particularly Sample 1, fill 403 of pit F402. This contained abundant charcoal, with around 25% comprising large trunk/branchwood fragments (15–40mm) of mainly oak wood.

## **8. RADIOCARBON DATES**

- 8.1** Samples of short-lived charred plant material were selected from three features. The samples were submitted for AMS radiocarbon dating at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC). The AMS radiocarbon date results are given in Table 1. Calibration of the results has been performed using the data set published by Reimer *et al.* (2013) and the program OxCal v4.3.2 (on-line at: [c14.arch.ox.ac.uk](http://c14.arch.ox.ac.uk)). The certificates are presented in Appendix 3.



Table 1: Radiocarbon dating results (calibrated to 95.4% probability).

Material	Con-text	Lab no.	Result BP	$\delta^{13}C$ (‰)	Cal BC/AD (%age)	Cal BC/AD (spread)*
Charred Plant Remains: Wheat/Spelt	403	SUERC-95022 (GU55873)	217 ± 23	-22.3	1645 - 1682 cal AD (36.9%) 1738 - 1750 cal AD (2.3%) 1762 - 1803 cal AD (42.5%) 1937 cal AD (13.8%)	1645 - 1937 cal AD
Charred Plant Remains: Black Bindweed Achene (Fallopia Convolvulus)	410	SUERC-95023 (GU55874)	266 ± 24	-23.4	1521 - 1575 cal AD (28.3%) 1585 - 1590 cal AD (0.6%) 1626 - 1669 cal AD (60%) 1781 - 1799 cal AD (6.5%)	1521 - 1799 cal AD
Charred Plant Remains: Hazelnut shell	406	SUERC-95024 (GU55875)	3692 ± 25	-23.4	2194 - 2178 cal BC (2.8%) 2144 - 2017 cal BC (90.2%) 1995 - 1981 cal BC (2.4%)	2194 - 1981 cal BC

## 9. DISCUSSION

- 9.1** The investigations exposed a small number of archaeological features, which consisted of six pits, a ditch and two possible postholes. These were in the excavation area and from Trench 3. The features were cut into the natural subsoil that was exposed at a broadly consistent depth of around 0.5m beneath existing levels. Their position did not correspond with the anomalies identified from the previous geophysical survey. Trenches 2 and 3, which targeted linear anomalies thought to represent possible former boundaries interpreted from the geophysical survey, exposed no corresponding linear features, while the features exposed in Trench 3 and the excavation area were unlikely to have corresponded with the targeted discrete linear trends. There were no clear corresponding variations in the underlying geology or topsoil layers that could provide an indication for the geophysical results.
- 9.2** The archaeological features exposed have currently been broadly dated from finds recovered or association with the Roman to post-Roman and post-medieval periods. Post-medieval activity comprised the possible postholes F303 and F305, which have been dated to the 17th to 18th century, and are likely to be associated with post-medieval agricultural land use.
- 9.3** The dating of the Roman to post-Roman activity is associated with the recovery of the eight glass and jet beads from pits F402 and F405. The beads are considered to be late Roman, although this style of bead continued in use into the post-Roman period. Charred plant remains from pit F409 returned a post-medieval radiocarbon date. The remaining pits exposed in the excavation area (F411, F415 and F417) were undated. Based on their comparable fill types and material yielded from the environmental samples, it is possible that some, or all of these were contemporary with pits F402 and F405.
- 9.4** The function that the activity exposed in the excavation area represented was not clear. It is possible that the series of small shallow pits comprised peripheral activity to settlement; the inclusion of the range of sometimes concentrated charred plant remains, as well as charcoal, is perhaps evidence of this. Furthermore, the presence

of the (albeit very small quantity of) undiagnostic burnt and unburnt bone and abundant charcoal from pit F402, may also provide an indication that the activity was also associated with ritualised practice. Although the limited quantity of bone suggests that it was unlikely to have been a standard cremation, the associated recovery of the bead, in representing personal jewellery, may add further to the suggestion for a ceremonial association. However, even with a greater number of beads present in pit F405, no associated cremated bone was recovered from this pit, nor indeed any of the remaining pits. Despite this uncertainty, the position of the broadly Roman to post-Roman activity represents the potential for occupation extending further northeast than the known Romano-British sites previously recorded in the plots adjacent to Exeter/Topsham Road. Unfortunately the radiocarbon dates from pits F402 and F405 do not provide further support for this dating.

- 9.5** The mismatch between the radiocarbon dates and the finds is unfortunate. Pit F402 which contained finds of Roman or post-Roman type along with burnt and unburnt bone returned a post-medieval to modern radiocarbon date on a charred grain fragment. The Early Bronze Age date on a charred hazelnut shell fragment from pit F405, which also contained finds of Roman or post-Roman type, is incompatible with the finds of iron associated with the beads. Charred hazelnut shell is typical of sites of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date and illustrates the continued use of wild resources at a time when farming was being practised. The nut shell fragment is undoubtedly residual and was probably incorporated within the pit at the time it was backfilled, although both pits were shallow features and in both cases the dated material could have been incorporated within the pits by contamination due to modern deep ploughing for cultivation. Alternatively, in regard to pit F402, the very small grain may have been worked down the soil profile by root or worm action.
- 9.6** Ditch F427 was undated. Its sterile fill suggested that it was not closely associated with settlement, and therefore probably represented an agricultural feature such as a drain or plot boundary of an unknown period.

## **10. CONCLUSIONS**

- 10.1** The archaeological investigations exposed a small number of poorly dated pits, a ditch and possible postholes. Although there was a general lack of finds recovered, the activity represented was at least in part dated to the Roman to post-Roman and post-medieval periods.
- 10.2** Several late Roman to post-Roman small glass and jet beads were recovered from two of the pits, as well as a very small quantity of undiagnostic cremated bone associated with burnt charcoal and charred plant remains. Although the general activity recorded was probably peripheral to settlement, the deposition of the beads and burnt material was considered to provide evidence that some form of ritualised association may also have been a factor.

## **11. ARCHIVE AND OASIS**

- 11.1** 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 **ACD2210**. It will be held until it is known if any further archaeological work on the site is required. On completion of all archaeological work the finds and paper archive will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter, under the temporary ref no. **RAMM:20/04**, but if they are unable to

accept this, then it will be dealt with under their current accession policy. Also, at this stage, if required a digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards, guidelines and the AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives (Coles 2018).

- 11.2** An online OASIS entry has been completed using the unique identifier **384990** which includes a digital copy of this report.

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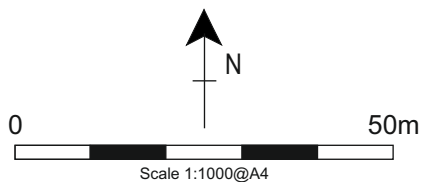
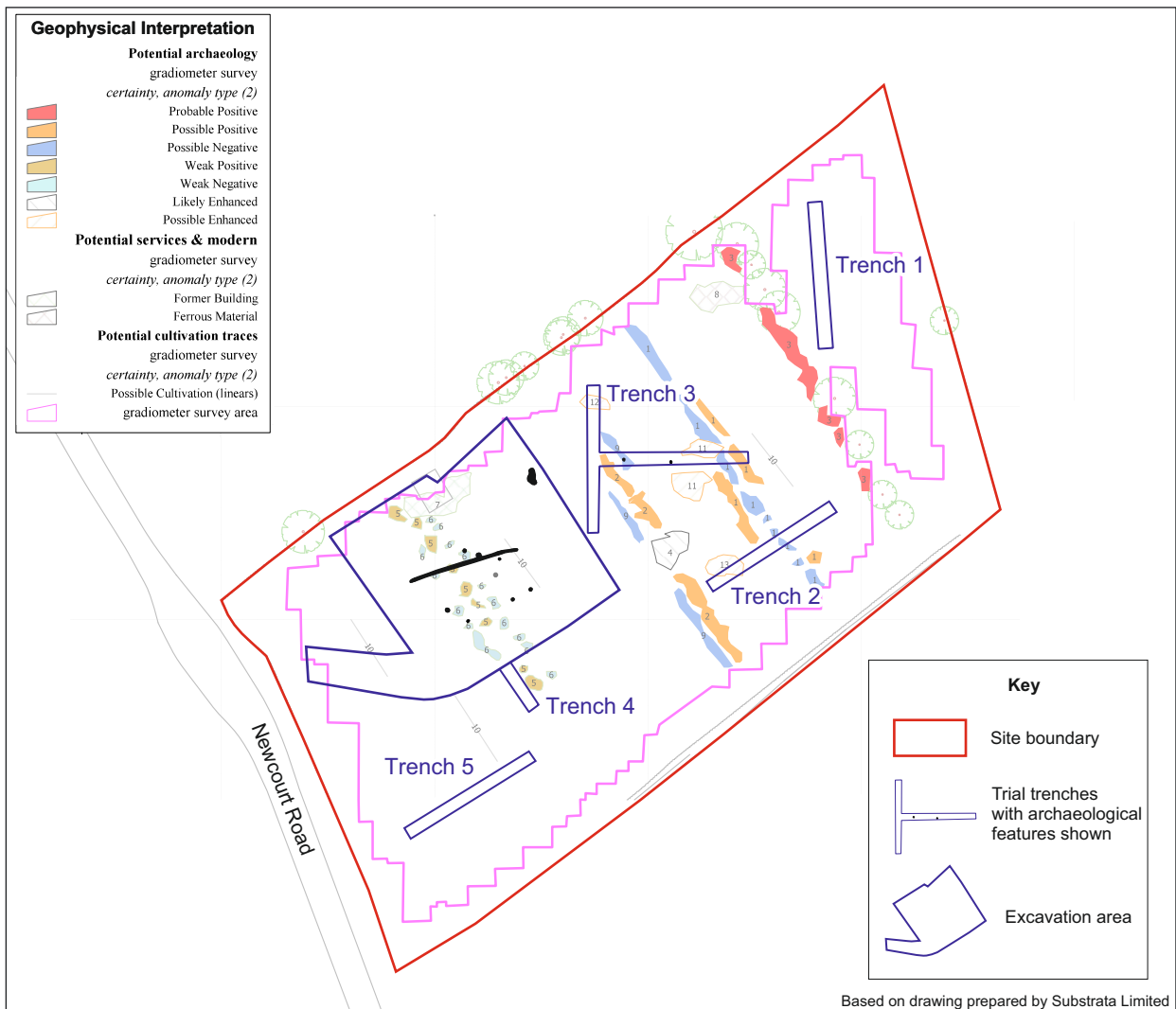
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PROJECT

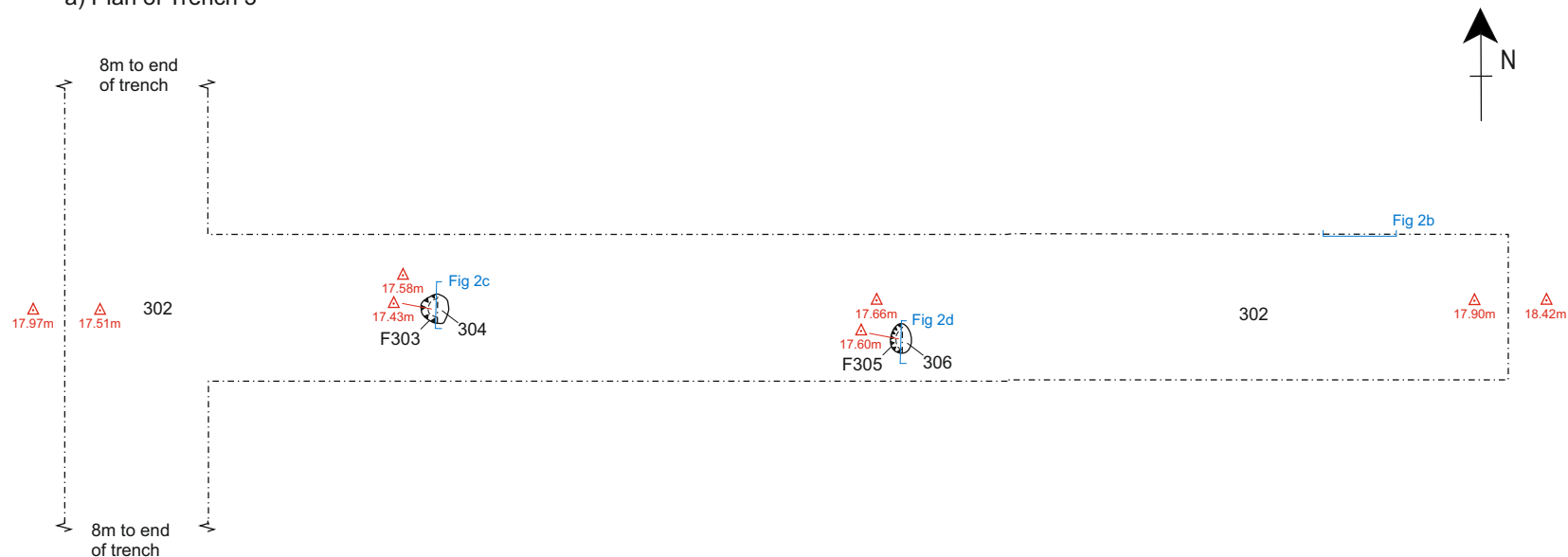
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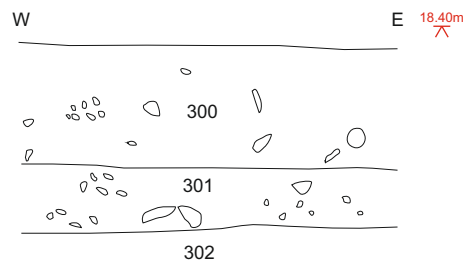
Fig. 1: Location of site, trial trenches and excavation area in relation to geophysical survey



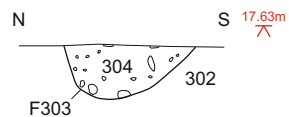
a) Plan of Trench 3



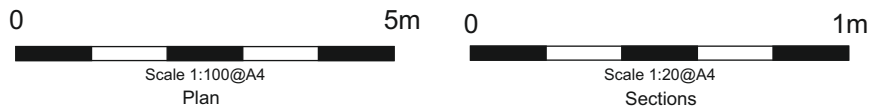
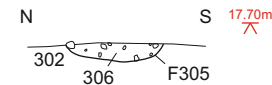
b) Representative section of Trench 3



c) Section of possible posthole F303



d) Section of possible posthole F305



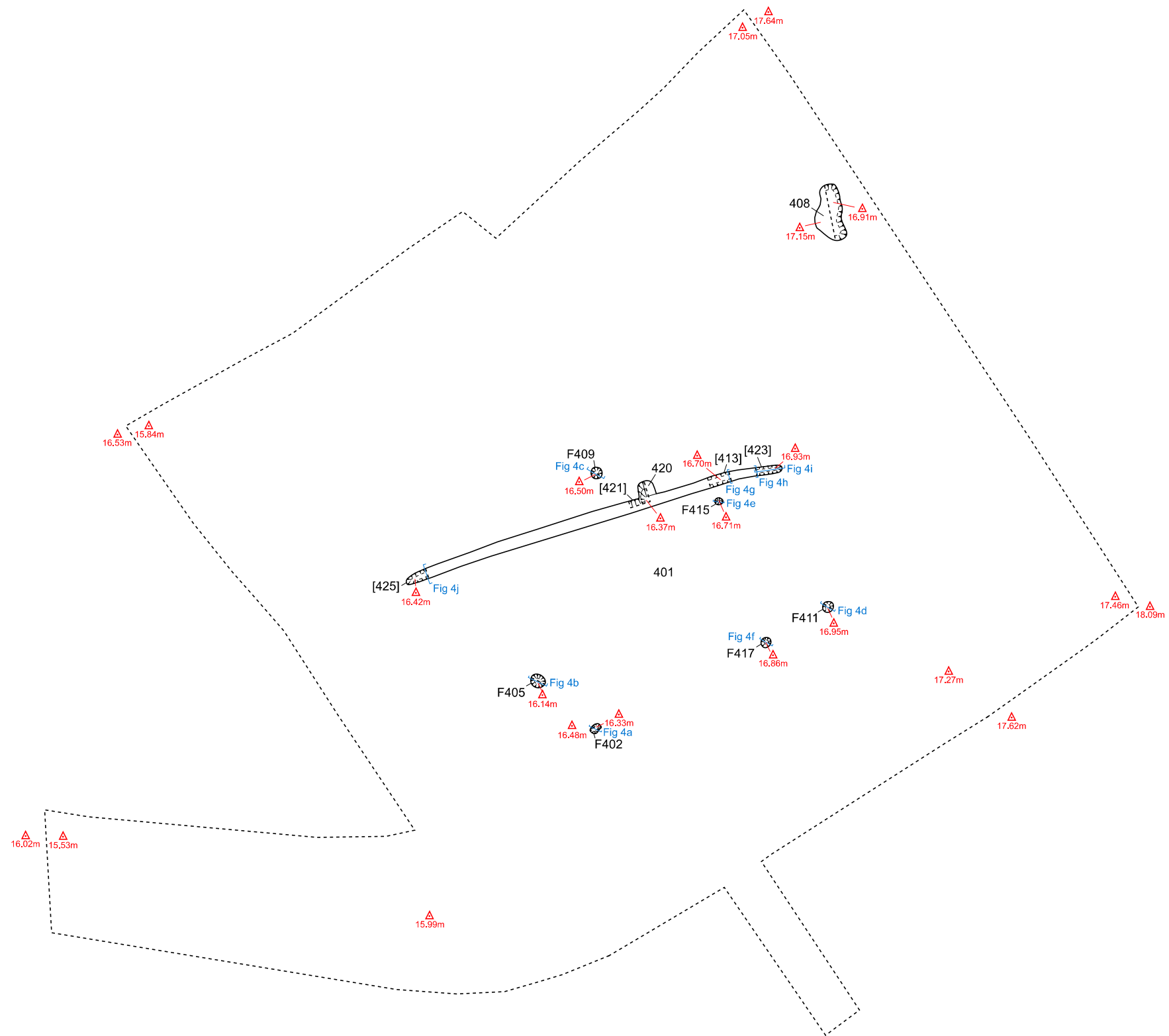
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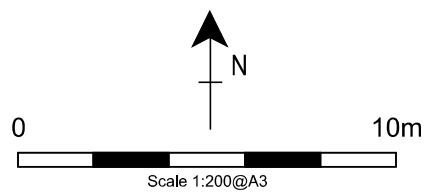
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Fig. 2: Trench 3, plan and sections

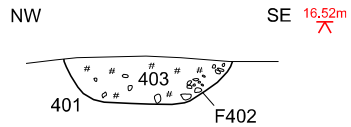




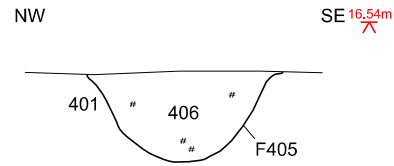
PROJECT  
Land off Newcourt Road,  
Topsham, Exeter  
TITLE  
Fig. 3: Plan of excavation area



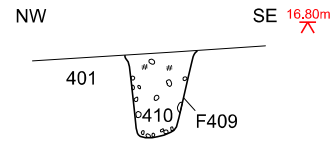
a) Section of pit F402



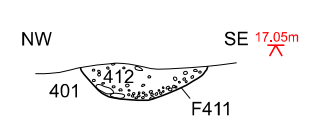
b) Section of pit F405



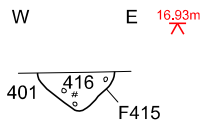
c) Section of pit F409



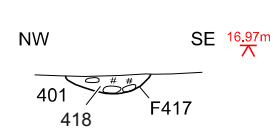
d) Section of pit F411



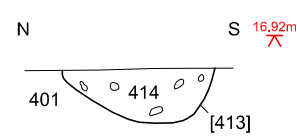
e) Section of pit F415



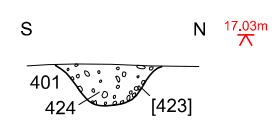
f) Section of pit F417



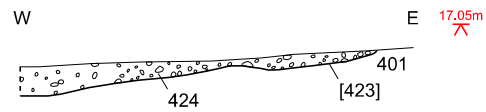
g) Section of ditch F427, segment [413]



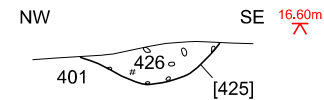
h) Section of ditch F427, segment [423]



i) Section of ditch F427, segment [423]



j) Section of ditch F427, segment [425]



Key	
	Stones
	Charcoal

PROJECT

Land off Newcourt Road,  
Topsham, Exeter

TITLE

Fig. 4: Sections

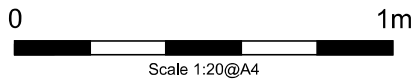






Plate 1: General view of site looking southwest with Trench 1 in foreground



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



Plate 3: Trench 3, posthole F303, looking east (scale 0.4m)

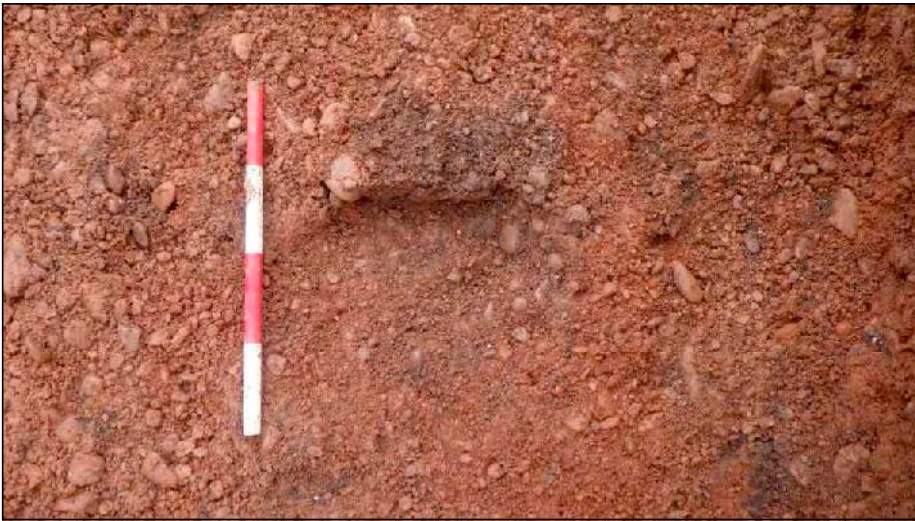


Plate 4: Trench 3, posthole F305, looking east (scale 0.4m)



Plate 5: View of excavation area, looking southwest



Plate 6: View of excavation area, looking northeast



Plate 7: Pit F402, view to northeast (scale 0.4m)



Plate 8: Pit F405, view to northeast (scale 0.3m)



Plate 9: Pit F409, view to northeast (scale 0.3m)



Plate 10: Pit F411, view to northeast (scale 0.3m)



Plate 11: Pit F415, view to north (scale 0.3m)



Plate 12: Pit F417, view to northeast (scale 0.3m)



Plate 13: Ditch F427, view looking southwest from segment 413 (scale 1m)

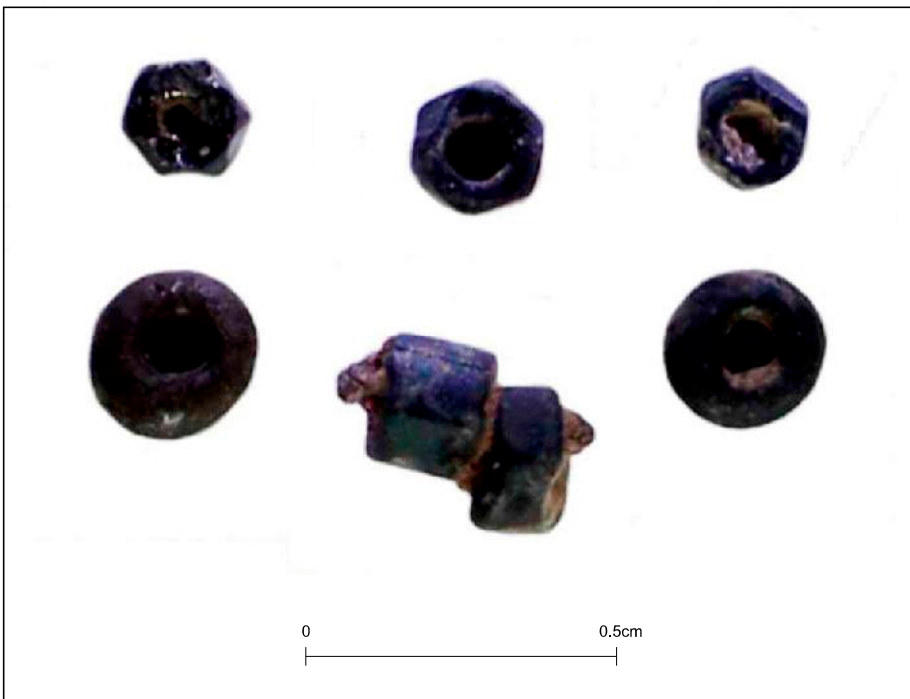


Plate 14: Beads from pit F405 context 406

# Appendix 1

Tabulated Context Descriptions



## APPENDIX 1: TABULATED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1		Length 20m	Width 1.9m	Alignment N-S
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
100	Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with common small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions	0-0.4m	Topsoil	
101	Mid brownish red sand and gravel	0.4m-0.46m	Interface/subsoil	
102	Mid red sand and gravel	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 2		Length 20m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
200	Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with common small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions	0-0.36m	Topsoil	
201	Mid brownish red sand and gravel	0.30m-0.46m	Interface/subsoil	
202	Mid red sand and gravel	0.46m+	Natural subsoil	

Trench 5		Length 20m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation	
500	Dark greyish brown sandy clay loam with common small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions	0-0.4m	Topsoil	
501	Mid brownish red sand and gravel	0.36m-0.56m	Interface/subsoil	
502	Mid pinkish red sand and gravel to mid brownish red sandy silt clay with abundant gravel	0.56m+	Natural subsoil	

# Appendix 2

## Palaeoenvironmental Assessment Results



APPENDIX 2: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Sample volume  Litres (Lts.) processed & % of flot assessed (scanning & sorting)	<b>Ecofacts</b>  Charcoal fragments - size (mm) type eg trunk/branchwood (t/bwd).  x- occasional (<100) xx - moderate (100 - 250) xxx - frequent (250 -1000) xxxx - abundant (1000 +)  Charred Plant Macrofossils (CPM) Amounts listed for grain (type)/chaff, legume, weed seed, nut (eg Hazelnut Shell (HNS) & berry)	<b>Suitable for radiocarbon dating?</b>  Y/N (ecofact type)	<b>Suitable for environmental analysis?</b>  Y/N - (CPM &/or wood charcoal)
1	403	Fill of pit F402	12 litres processed 100% of sample. 100% of large flot (750 ml) scanned (10% sorted for CPM) and all residues sorted.	<i>Charcoal</i> xxxx - abundant (1500+) - 25% large size (10 - 40mm) and 75% small-medium size fragments (<5 - 10mm) trunk/branchwood (t/bwd) fragments. 1 x charred roundwood (rwd) twig/stem  <i>CPM</i> 100+ ?grains (incl. 1 x breadwheat grain) 1 x berry/large CPM 1 x weed seed 3 x woody bud/stem ?CPM x 100 - 250+	Y (breadwheat grain/rwd twig/stem)	Y (CPM & wood charcoal (includes large oak fragments))
3	410	Fill of pit F409	10 litres processed 100% of sample. 25% of medium flot (150 ml) and all residues sorted.	<i>Charcoal</i> xx - moderate Charcoal (<250) small- medium size fragments (<10mm) trunk/branchwood (t/bwd) fragments.  <i>CPM</i> 10+ ?grains 5 x weed seeds 1 x ?nut fragment 3 x woody bud/twig ?CPM x 25 +	?Y (grain)	Y (CPM & wood charcoal)

APPENDIX 2: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Sample volume  Litres (Lts.) processed & % of flot assessed (scanning & sorting)	<b>Ecofacts</b>  Charcoal fragments - size (mm) type eg trunk/branchwood (t/bwd).  x- occasional (<100) xx - moderate (100 - 250) xxx - frequent (250 -1000) xxxx - abundant (1000 +)  Charred Plant Macrofossils (CPM) Amounts listed for grain (type)/chaff, legume, weed seed, nut (eg Hazelnut Shell (HNS) & berry)	<b>Suitable for radiocarbon dating?</b>  Y/N (ecofact type)	<b>Suitable for environmental analysis?</b>  Y/N - (CPM &/or wood charcoal)
4	412	Fill pit F411	5 litres processed 100% of sample. 100% of small flot (50 ml) and all residues sorted.	<i>Charcoal</i> x - occasional Charcoal (<100 fragments) small size (<5mm) of trunk/branchwood (t/bwd) fragments.  <i>CPM</i> 25+ ?grains (incl. 1 x Breadwheat grain) 5 x weed seeds ?CPM x 15	Y (breadwheat grain)	?Y - CPM only (possible small grain concentration)
5	406	Fill of pit F405	18 litres processed 100% of sample. 50% of medium-large flot (300 ml) and all residues sorted.	<i>Charcoal</i> xxx - frequent Charcoal (500+) small - medium size (<3 - 15mm) trunk/branchwood (t/bwd) fragments.  <i>CPM</i> 17+ ?grains 5 x ?berry/large CPM ?CPM x 10 - 50 +	?Y (?grains)	Y - CPM and wood charcoal

APPENDIX 2: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Sample No.	Context No.	Description	Sample volume  Litres (Lts.) processed & % of flot assessed (scanning & sorting)	Ecofacts  Charcoal fragments - size (mm) type eg trunk/branchwood (t/bwd).  x- occasional (<100) xx - moderate (100 - 250) xxx - frequent (250 -1000) xxxx - abundant (1000 +)  Charred Plant Macrofossils (CPM) Amounts listed for grain (type)/chaff, legume, weed seed, nut (eg Hazelnut Shell (HNS) & berry	Suitable for radiocarbon dating?  Y/N (ecofact type)	Suitable for environmental analysis?  Y/N - (CPM &/or wood charcoal)
6	416	Fill of pit F415	10 litres processed 100% of sample. 100% of small flot (50 ml) and all residues sorted.	<i>Charcoal</i> x - occasional (100 +) small size (5mm) trunk/branchwood (t/bwd) fragments.  <i>CPM</i> 10+ ?grains ?CPM x 10 - 50 +	?Y (?grains)	?Y - CPM only
7	418	Fill of pit F417	1 litre processed 100% of sample. 100% of small flot (25 ml) and all residues sorted.	<i>Charcoal</i> x - occasional Charcoal (+) small size (<5mm) trunk/branchwood (t/bwd) fragments. 2 x small roundwood charred twig (<5mm)  <i>CPM</i> 2 x ?grains 1 x weed seed ?CPM x <20 (large) & 5 x (small)	Y (?grains)	N

# Appendix 3

## Radiocarbon Dating Results

*RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE*

20 October 2020

**Laboratory Code** SUERC-95022 (GU55873)

**Submitter** Charlotte Coles  
AC Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 4 Halthaies Workshops  
Bradinch  
Exeter  
Devon EX5 4LQ

**Site Reference** ACD2210

**Context Reference** 403

**Sample Reference** 1

**Material** Charred Plant Remains : Wheat/Spelt

**$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  relative to VPDB** -22.3 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP** 217  $\pm$  23

**N.B.** The above  $^{14}\text{C}$  age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon* 58(1) pp.9-23.

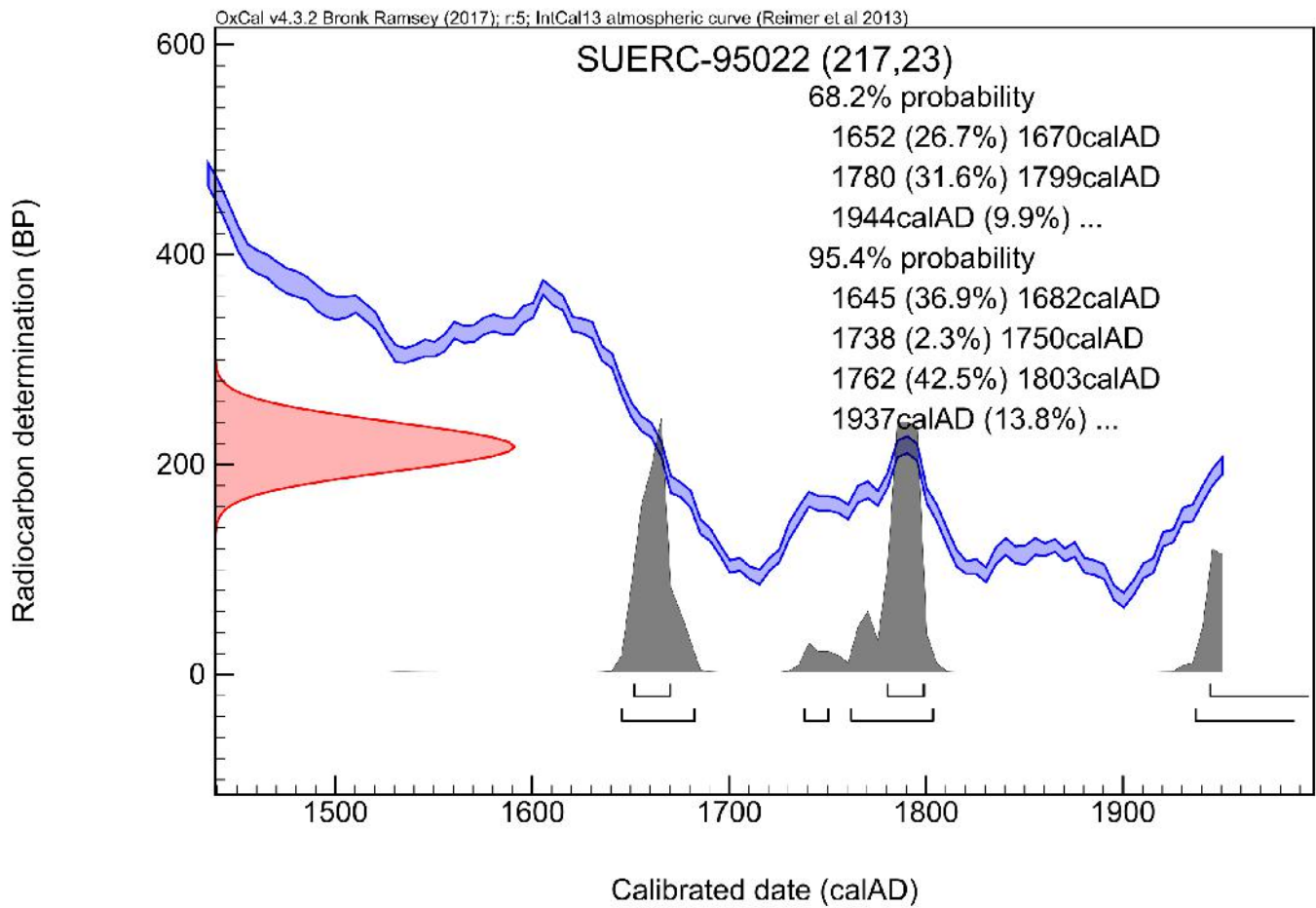
For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at [suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk).

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

*E. Dunbar*

Checked and signed off by :

*B. [Signature]*



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

\* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon* 51(1) pp.337-60

† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon* 55(4) pp.1869-87

*RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE*

20 October 2020

**Laboratory Code** SUERC-95023 (GU55874)

**Submitter** Charlotte Coles  
AC Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 4 Halthaies Workshops  
Bradinch  
Exeter  
Devon EX5 4LQ

**Site Reference** ACD2210

**Context Reference** 410

**Sample Reference** 3

**Material** Charred Plant Remains : Black Bindweed Achene (*Fallopia Convolvulus*)

**$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  relative to VPDB** -23.4 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP** 266  $\pm$  24

**N.B.** The above  $^{14}\text{C}$  age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon* 58(1) pp.9-23.

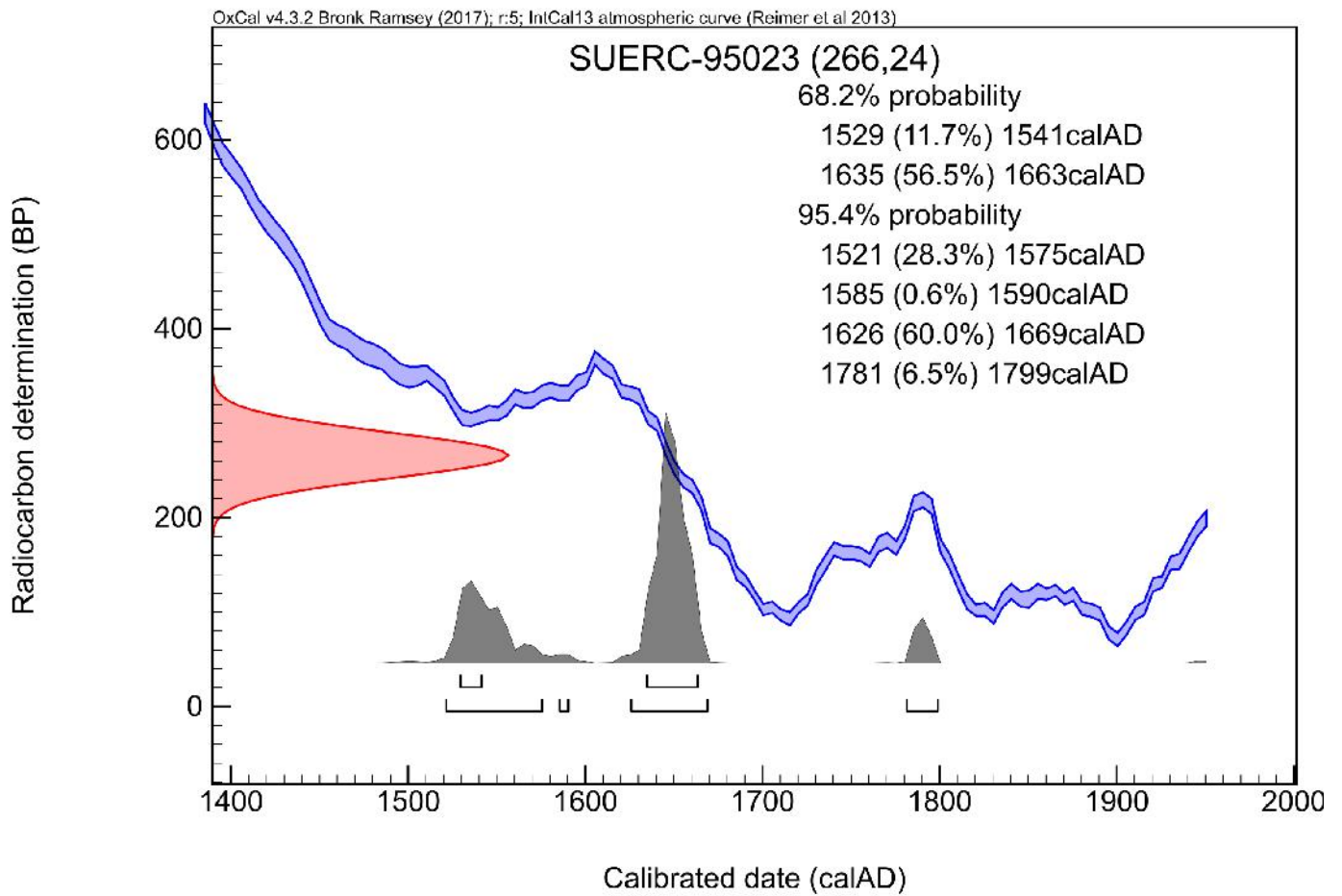
For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at [suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk).

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

*E. Dunbar*

Checked and signed off by :

*B. [Signature]*



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

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† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon* 55(4) pp.1869-87



*RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE*

20 October 2020

**Laboratory Code** SUERC-95024 (GU55875)  
**Submitter** Charlotte Coles  
AC Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 4 Halthaies Workshops  
Bradinch  
Exeter  
Devon EX5 4LQ  
**Site Reference** ACD2210  
**Context Reference** 406  
**Sample Reference** 5  
**Material** Charred Plant Remains : Hazelnut shell  
 **$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  relative to VPDB** -23.4 ‰  
**Radiocarbon Age BP** 3692  $\pm$  25

**N.B.** The above  $^{14}\text{C}$  age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon* 58(1) pp.9-23.

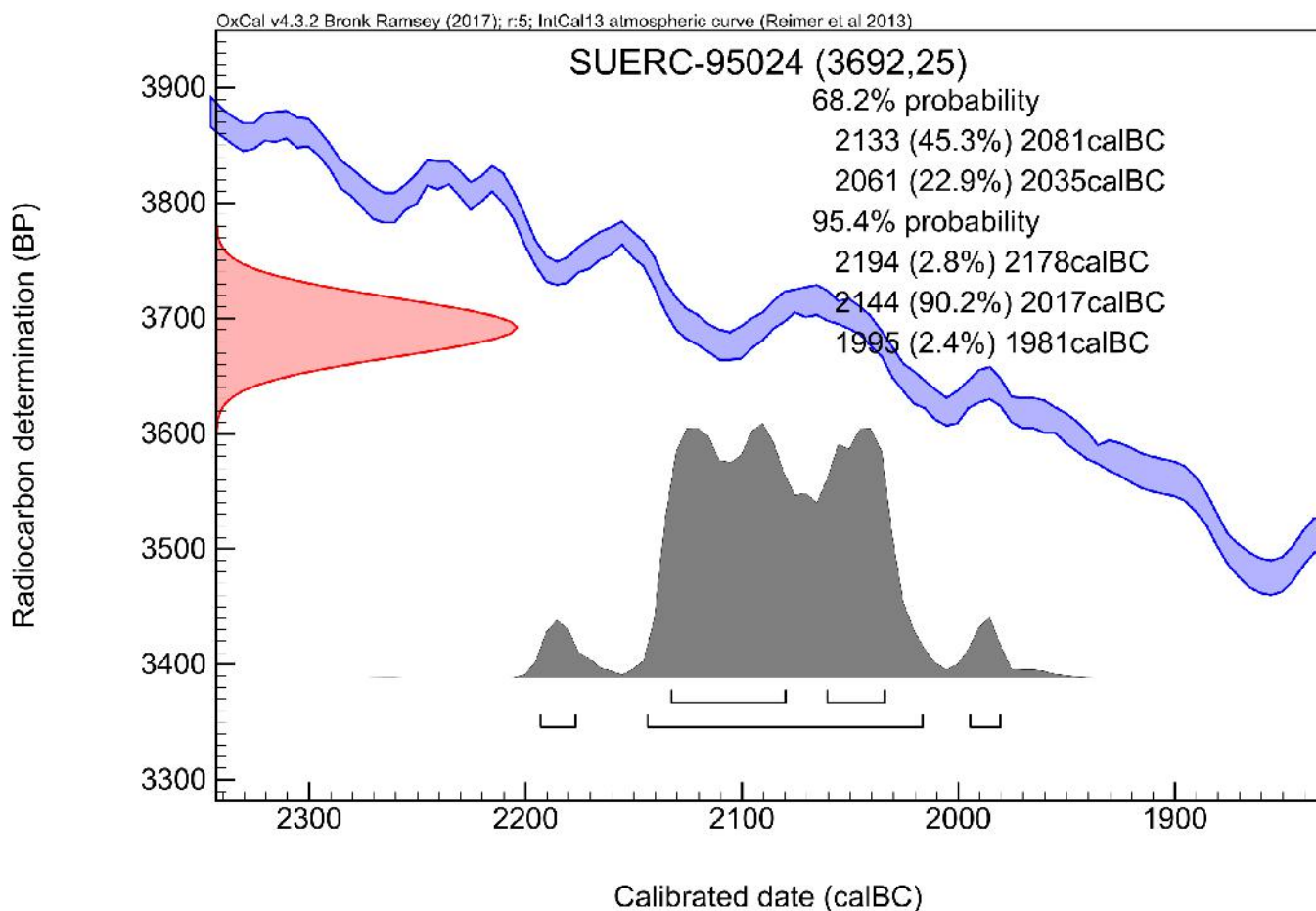
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Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

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