

# Land at Stowford Rise, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon

NGR SY12438959

## Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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Prepared by:  
Simon Hughes

with contributions from:  
Henrietta Quinnell and Julian Richards

On behalf of:  
RPS Planning and Development Ltd

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archaeology

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# LAND AT STOWFORD RISE, SIDFORD, SIDMOUTH, DEVON

## CENTRED ON NGR SY12438959

### RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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## Summary

*An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a planning application for residential development on land at Stowford Rise, Sidford, Sidmouth (SY 12438959), was undertaken by AC archaeology during August 2009. The site occupies an area of approximately 3.5 hectares and comprises five fields of largely overgrown land to the south of Sidford High Street, the alignment of which is thought to represent the Roman coastal road between Charmouth and Exeter. The area also contains a number of previously recorded archaeological sites and monuments dating to the prehistoric period. An earlier geophysical survey by magnetometry identified a small number of anomalies which indicated the possible presence of buried archaeological remains on the site*

*The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of nine trenches, each 1.9m wide and totalling 205m in length, with these positioned to investigate the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Dense vegetation and wildlife constraints meant it was not possible to excavate trenches elsewhere on the site. In some of the trenches largely negative results were recorded, but towards the southern end of the site deposits relating to a small and well-preserved late Bronze Age to early Iron Age settlement were present (c. 900-600 BC). Archaeological features and deposits associated with this comprised, pits, postholes, stakeholes and linear ditches/gullies. Pottery, worked flint and daub was recovered, while an assessment of the environmental remains indicates the good survival of charcoal, charred grain and burnt bone. This particular settlement is likely to be restricted to a narrow level terrace, before the surrounding ground either rises or falls more steeply to the north, east and south, although the extent of the terrace to the west is not known. There is the potential, however, elsewhere on the site where trenching was not possible, for similar remains to be present.*

*Archaeological deposits recorded in other trenches are considered to be of less significance, but comprised buried soil horizons within a natural hollow, from which prehistoric worked flint was recovered, an early post-medieval agricultural ditch and a modern animal burial.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation carried out in support of a planning application for residential development on land at Stowford Rise, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during August 2009. The work was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development Ltd on behalf of clients and was undertaken following consultation with Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2 The site occupies five plots of land which are mostly overgrown with dense vegetation, although there is a closely-cropped grass field towards the south (Plate 1). The fields are mainly divided by hedgebank boundaries, with the northern boundary formed by Sidford High Street. The site lies between c. 60m and 80m OD and covers an area of approximately 3.5 hectares, situated on ground which generally slopes moderately down to the south and west. The underlying solid geology comprises Triassic Mercia Mudstone.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located to the south of Sidford High Street, the alignment of which is likely to represent a portion of the Roman coastal road between Charmouth and Exeter. While there are no known previously recorded archaeological sites or monuments on

the site itself, it is in an area where evidence of prehistoric activity has been previously identified, including cropmark enclosures. Worked flint scatters, barrows and sites of cairns. The eastern boundary of the site represents the former line of the ancient parish boundary between Sidmouth (to the west) and Sidbury (east). Sidbury parish no longer exists as it has been incorporated into Sidmouth parish.

- 2.2 The Sidmouth parish tithe map of 1839 map shows that the site at this time was divided into a series of medieval strip fields aligned at right angles to Sidford High Street. Possible 'significant' fieldnames recorded on the accompanying apportionment of 1841 include *Higher mansion meadow*, *Lower mansion meadow*, *Well pit*, *Singlehayes* and *Ganglehayes*. The 'Hayes' placename element can often mean enclosed area of land (for example around a settlement or farmstead).
- 2.3 The pattern of strip fields as depicted on the tithe map is still present on large-scale Ordnance Survey maps dating to between 1888 and 1933.
- 2.4 Because large parts of the site are overgrown, only a small area of the site was accessible for geophysical survey. The results are included as Appendix 2 and these do indicate that there might be some anomalies relating to archaeological activity on the site.

### 3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the 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 set out in this report will be reviewed and used to inform any decisions about subsequent mitigation, as a condition should planning permission be granted.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief provided by DCHES (Reed 2009) and a subsequent method statement prepared by AC archaeology (Valentin 2009). It comprised the machine-excavation of nine trenches totalling 205m in length, with each trench 1.9m wide. Trenches were located in currently accessible areas and to investigate the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The location of trenches is shown on Fig. 2.
- 4.2 The site was recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. All plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20. All levels have been related to Ordnance Datum.

### 5. RESULTS

#### 5.1 Introduction

Archaeological features and deposits were present in Trenches 1, 3, 7 and 9 and are described below. Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 produced largely negative results and are summarised in tabulated form only in Appendix 1. Relevant plans and sections are included as Figs 3 to 5.

#### 5.2 Trench 1 (Detailed plan Fig. 3a and section Fig 3b; Plate 2)

This trench was excavated onto natural red clay with chert gravels (context 102), present at a depth of 0.39m below ground level. This was below a subsoil layer (101) and topsoil (100). The trench contained a single linear feature (F103).

Probable ditch F103 was approximately north to south aligned and located towards the western end of the trench. It was 1.24m wide, 0.3m deep and had moderate to steep-sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills, comprising a homogenous brownish-red silty clay basal fill (104) and an upper reddish-brown silty clay fill that contained common chert stone inclusions (105). A single sherd of early post-medieval pottery was recovered from fill 104.

### **5.3 Trench 3** (Detailed plan Fig. 3c and section Fig. 3d; Plate 3)

This 'L' shaped trench was excavated onto natural mixed red clay and red brown sandy clays (304), present at a depth below ground surface of 0.42m in the south and 1.38m towards the northeast end within a natural hollow. The hollow had been naturally infilled with two buried soils, which comprised a homogenous mid reddish-brown silty clay deposit (303), overlain by a dark reddish-brown silty clay containing common chert stone inclusions (302). Layer 303 was overlain by subsoil (301) which was below topsoil (300). Three pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from layer 303.

### **5.4 Trench 7** (Detailed plan Fig. 4a and sections/profiles Figs. 4b-j; Plates 5 and 6)

This trench was located on a broadly level terrace towards the southern end of the site. It was partly excavated onto natural firm red clay with chert gravels (702), present at a depth of 0.56m below ground surface. Above the natural subsoil was a 0.12m thick subsoil layer of brownish-red silty clay (721/726) containing common charcoal flecks and in one area (726) was much stonier. A total of five worked flint and chert flakes and 11 sherds of prehistoric pottery was recovered from layer 721/726.

Layer 721/726 was probably cut by a total of 35 features within the trench, which consisted of pits, postholes, stakeholes and ditches/gullies. The main part of the trench (NE-SW section) was excavated directly onto natural subsoil, as the features in this area were only recognised at this level, but it is probable that these too were cutting through layer 721.

Only a selection of the features were investigated to establish their date and function. These included nine pits or postholes (F704, F706, F708, F710, F712, F714, F716, F718 and F720) two stakeholes (F733 and F736) and one ditch (F722).

Probable pits F704 and F706 (Fig. 4c-d) were located towards the centre of the trench and had diameters of 0.42m and 0.3m. They both had moderately steep-sloping sides and shallow concave bases, with depths of 0.05m to 0.06m. Both features contained similar light greyish-brown clay silt fills (703 and 705), with common charcoal fleck inclusions. Fill 703 (F704) contained 13 pieces of daub.

Probable posthole F708 and stakeholes F733 and F736 (Fig. 4b) were also located in the central area of the trench. Stakeholes F733 and F736 each had diameters of 0.1m and had steep-sloping sides and blunt point bases, present at depths of 0.11m and 0.21m. Posthole F708 was 0.2m wide and 0.12m deep, with moderately steep-sloping sides and a concave base. All three of these features had broadly similar dark brownish-grey silty clay fills (707, 751 and 750), containing common charcoal fleck inclusions. A worked flint flake was recovered from fill 707 (F708).

The remaining six excavated pits or postholes were located towards the southwest end of the trench and were arranged in two parallel alignments. Possible postholes or pits F710, F712 and F714 (Fig. 4e-g) had diameters between 0.24m and 0.4m and depths ranging from 0.1m to 0.4m. They were all steep-sided and had shallow

concave bases, and each contained similar mid greyish-brown clay silt fills (709, 711 and 713), containing common flecks of charcoal. One sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from fill 709 (F710). Three worked flint chips and one sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from fill 711 (F712).

Pits or postholes F716, F718 and F720 were located to the southeast of the above group. The largest of these, oval feature F716 (Fig. 4h), had a diameter of 0.56m and was 0.33m deep. It had steeply-sloping stepped sides and a concave base. A single mid greyish-brown clay silt fill was present (715), which contained possible packing stones and common charcoal inclusions. One worked flint flake was recovered.

Features F718 and F720 (Fig. 4i-j) were both 0.45m long and 0.3m wide, with gradually-sloping sides and concave bases that were present at depths of 0.11m and 0.04m. The features contained similar greyish-brown clay silt fills (717 and 719). One worked flint flake was recovered from fill 717 (F718) and one sherd of prehistoric pottery and a piece of fired clay from fill 719 (F720).

Linear feature F722 (Fig. 4b) was northwest to southeast aligned and located towards the northeast end of the trench. This probable ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderately steep-sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained a single mid brownish-red silty clay fill (723), with common large chert stone inclusions and charcoal flecks. A total of four sherds of prehistoric pottery, a worked flint flake and a flint scraper, was recovered.

The unexcavated features are likely to have similar functions to those investigated and comprise seven possible stake holes (724, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732 and 753), 15 possible postholes or pits (725, 727, 734, 735, 737, 738, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747 and 748) and one linear feature (739). All the unexcavated features contained broadly similar mid greyish-brown friable silty clay to clay silt fills with common charcoal inclusions. Finds collected from the exposed surface of the unexcavated features comprise one piece of daub from 724, two pieces of fired clay and one worked flint flake from 725, four sherds of prehistoric pottery from 726 and one worked flint flake from 727.

#### **5.5 Trench 9** (Detailed plan Fig. 5a and section Fig. 5b; Plate 4).

This trench was excavated onto natural firm red clay with chert gravels (902), present at a depth of 0.49m below ground the surface. This was sealed by a subsoil layer (901) which was below topsoil (900).

The trench contained an animal skeleton (903) within a very shallow pit (F904), located towards the eastern end. The animal skeleton is likely to be a calf, and cut through a modern stone-lined drain.

## **6. THE FINDS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. Finds were then quantified according to material type within each context. The assemblage was then scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. This information is briefly discussed below. Finds totals by material type are set out in Table 1.

Table 1. Finds summary (weight is in grams; CBM = Ceramic Building Material)

Context	Description	Prehistoric Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Post-med Pottery		Modern Pottery		CBM		Daub		Fired Clay		Glass		Worked flint/chert
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No
100	Topsoil			1	66	1	8			1	29							2
300	Topsoil							3	49									1
303	Buried soil																	3
400	Topsoil	2	2					2	15									1
600	Topsoil							5	134									1
700	Topsoil							18	586	1	4					1	60	
703	Fill F704											13	66					
707	Fill F708																	1
709	Fill F710	1	23															
711	Fill F712	1	3															3
715	Fill F716																	1
717	Fill F718																	1
719	Fill F720	1	3											1	6			
721	Subsoil layer	7	72															5
723	Fill of ditch F722	4	53															2
724	Unexc.feature											1	90					
725	Unexc.feature													2	6			1
726	Subsoil layer	4	27															
727	Unexc.feature																	1
800	Topsoil							13	497							1	4	3
900	Topsoil					1	9	2	136									1
901	Subsoil					1	1											1
104	Fill of ditch F103					1	61											
401	Subsoil					2	36											
<b>Totals</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>28</b>

## 6.2 The pottery

### Introduction

Pottery dating from the prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods is present in the assemblage and is discussed below.

### Prehistoric pottery by Henrietta Quinnell

#### Catalogue

##### Trench 4

**(400)** Two thin grogged sherds, soft, one very reduced.

##### Trench 7

**(709)** Thick hard sherd ?just above base angle. From fabric as (723) but without apparent flint

**(711)** Part of body sherd in hard grogged fabric.

**(719)** Single body sherd with Exeter volcanic inclusions. These inclusions been recognised both in middle Bronze Age and middle Iron Age fabrics. In the former they are larger, and the fabric is thicker and softer, in the latter they are smaller and the fabric is better finished.

**(721)** Seven sherds of similar reduced hard fabric containing much rounded white quartz (? from sand) and a few pieces of sharp smashed flint. The sherds consist of three base angles, of which the most complete has a protruding foot and another with a range of impressions on the base. One sherd appears to be from just below a rim; it appears to be from a bowl with pronounced internal bevel to the rim and slight diagonal grooves on this bevel. The remaining sherds are body pieces.

**(723)** Four body sherds, some joining, c. 12mm thick, very hard. Inclusions appear to be grog, some other rock and occasional pieces of sharp (?deliberately smashed) burnt flint.

**(726)** One thick sherd from base angle as (723); one thin sherd as (723); two thick sherds with a large quantity of flint or chert inclusions.

### Comment

The wide range of fabrics is marked: Exeter volcanic, grogged with added burnt flint and the third with (beach) quartz sand and flint. Such a range could be broadly compared with that found on the middle Bronze Age East Devon sites of Castle Hill and Hayne Lane, both near Honiton (Fitzpatrick *et al* 1999). However these fabrics are soft and crumbly, not hard. No parallel is known for the bowl with the internal bevel. However the shape of the protruding foot on the base angle sherd is matched by an early Iron Age example from Raddon (Gent and Quinnell 1999); simple forms are known from Mount Batten (Cunliffe 1988).

The Hayne Lane assemblage extends into the 9th century cal BC and includes a lot of very simple rim forms in various soft grogged and chert-tempered fabrics.

The best scenario which can be suggested is that the assemblage belongs somewhere after the 9th century BC but before the developed early Iron Age where simple jar forms are well known. The hard firing of the fabrics is some indication that they are all of the same tradition; the exception is the Exeter volcanic sherd. The broad date indicated is somewhere in the range of 900-600 BC, the end of the late Bronze Age and the beginning of the early Iron Age. If this is the case, very few, if any, sites in Devon have been shown to belong exclusively to this date bracket (the sherds from Raddon probably fall towards the end of this period and the site at Mount Batten is multi-period).

### *Medieval*

A single body sherd of 14th to 15th-century exterior green-glazed courseware pottery was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1.

### *Post-medieval to modern*

A small number of sherds dating from the early 17th century to the late 18th century is present in the assemblage. These consist of a single sherd of earthenware with internal green glaze and external green glaze band decoration from fill layer 103 of ditch F102, two base sherds from a lead-glazed vessel from the subsoil of trench 4, a sherd of lead-glazed dish from the topsoil of Trench 9 and a small sherd of lead-glazed earthenware from the subsoil of Trench 9.

The majority of the assemblage is of 19th century and later date and includes blue and white transfer-printed wares, creamwares, glazed earthenwares, industrial whitewares and flowerpot.

## **6.3 Worked flint and chert** by Julian Richards

A small assemblage of worked stone was examined. The raw material includes both flint and coarse-grained chert. The breakdown of material by context is shown in Table 2 below.

There are few comments that can be made about such a small assemblage. However, there are two pieces, a large and neatly retouched end scraper from context 723 and a thinning flake from context 900 that suggest a small residual Neolithic component. Beyond this the only observation that can be made is that some pieces are remarkably fresh and sharp.

As the main focus of activity on this site is later prehistoric, it is not inconceivable that stone tools were still being made and used for simple tasks (primarily cutting). Such pieces would not be expected to exhibit any consistency in their manufacture.



Table 2. Summary of worked flint and chert

Context	Flakes			Blades			Tools		Chips	Comment	Total
	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret	Scraper	Other			
100	1		1							Brown chert	2
300	1									flint/chert	1
303	2				1						3
400	1										1
600			1								1
707	1									Ochreous flint	1
711									3	1 chip is chert	3
715	1									flake is fresh	1
717	1										1
721	2	1								flint	3
721	1	1								chert	2
723	1						1			Very fresh flake and large end scraper	2
725	1									Grey cherty flint	1
727	1									Very fresh	1
800	3									1 flake ochreous chert	3
900	1									thinning flake	1
901	1										1
Total	19	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	3		28

#### 6.4 Glass

One piece of green bottle glass and a piece of pale blue window glass were recovered. These are of 19th century or later date.

#### 6.5 Ceramic building material (CBM)

One piece of black-glazed and one of unglazed post-medieval/modern floor tile were recovered.

#### 6.6 Environmental samples

A total of six bulk 10 litre samples from six features in Trench 7 has been examined. The residues have been scanned using a hand-held lens and the results are itemised by material type and quantity in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Results of environmental sample scanning

Sample No	Context No	Context description	Flint	Burnt bone	Charcoal	Daub	Carbonised grain	Snail
1	709	Fill of F710	+		+++++	++	+	
2	713	Fill of F714	+		+++++	++	+	+
3	715	Fill of F716	+++	+	+++++		+	
4	723	Fill of ditch F722	++		++++	++		
5	703	Fill of F704	+++	++	++++	+++	+	+
6	705	Fill of F706			+++	++		

Key: + = rare; ++ = occasional; +++ = several; ++++ = frequent; +++++ = numerous

The results indicate that there is high potential for the recovery of well-preserved palae-environmental material from the features and deposits identified in Trench 7. A range of different materials is present within the samples, including worked flint chips, burnt flint, burnt bone and daub. In addition, small quantities of carbonised grain and snails are present. By far the most abundant material within all samples is charcoal.

The material has not been analysed further for the purposes of this report, but has been retained in the event that further environmental analysis will be required as part of a future programme of archaeological works.

## **7. DISCUSSION**

- 7.1** While the evaluation was limited to those areas which were readily accessible, it has established that in one area of the site there is what appears to be a small prehistoric settlement, while in other areas less significant features and deposits were recorded dating to the prehistoric, post-medieval and modern periods. In other trenches largely negative results were recorded. Many of the anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey relate to variations within the natural geology.
- 7.2** The layer sequence across the site was broadly consistent, comprising topsoil and an agricultural subsoil overlying natural red clay with chert gravels, generally present at a depth of c. 0.4m below ground surface. A deeper sequence was identified within a probable natural hollow in Trench 3, where prehistoric worked flint was recovered from a buried soil layer.
- 7.3** In the area of Trench 7 a large concentration of archaeological features was recorded, comprising postholes, stakeholes, pits and ditches/gullies. These were cut through a subsoil layer. The pottery recovered from the features and subsoil indicate a date around the end of the late Bronze Age and beginning of the early Iron Age (c. 900-600 BC) and single phase settlement sites of this date are extremely rare in Devon. The remains were very well-preserved, with many of the features containing large quantities of charcoal, daub and fired clay. The processing and subsequent scanning of bulk soil samples from some features has indicated the good survival on the site of smaller artefacts and ecofacts, including worked flint chips, carbonised grain, burnt bone and snails.
- 7.4** The features and deposits appear to relate to a small prehistoric settlement of at least one structure. No coherent plan of the group of features could, however, be established at this stage, although there are indications of formal alignments of postholes. There was no evidence for a ditch enclosure and the settlement appears to be confined to a broadly level east-west terrace of around 30m width, before the ground slopes more steeply down to the south, drops off steeply in the field to the east and rises moderately to the north. The extent of this terrace to the west is not known. Trench 6, located 12m to the north and Trench 8, 20m to the south, both contained negative results.
- 7.5** The single ditch (F102) present in Trench 1 contained a single sherd of early post-medieval pottery and is likely to be an agricultural drainage or boundary ditch. This was probably once part of the medieval strip field system recorded in this location, although it is not depicted on the parish tithe map of 1839. The position of the ditch can be seen on the earlier geophysical survey (Appendix 2), but was not recognised at that stage as a potential archaeological feature.
- 7.6** The probable calf skeleton present in Trench 9 was positioned directly over a post-medieval/modern stone-lined drain. It is therefore clearly modern in date. It was left *in situ* and the trench backfilled.
- 7.7** The finds from overlying topsoil and subsoil layers from the trenches are predominately modern in date, although a small number of pottery sherds date from the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. A general background scatter of prehistoric worked flint was also identified in some parts of the site.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The evaluation has established the presence of an area of prehistoric settlement, with the potential elsewhere, where trial trenching was not possible, for similar remains to be present. The location of such remains is likely to be influenced by topographic factors, with those areas more steeply-sloping or lower-lying considered less favourable locations for early settlement.
- 8.2 The archaeological features and deposits identified in Trench 7 would not be considered of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*, but if impacted upon by development then further, more detailed and extensive, excavation and analysis will most probably be required by the planning authority. The identification of this settlement focus also raises the archaeological potential of some areas of the site not investigated during this stage; additional trial trenching of these may be necessary. The nature of the archaeological remains identified during the trial-trenching (small shallow features, localised settlement), means that further geophysical survey on the site is unlikely to provide meaningful results.

## 9. ARCHIVE

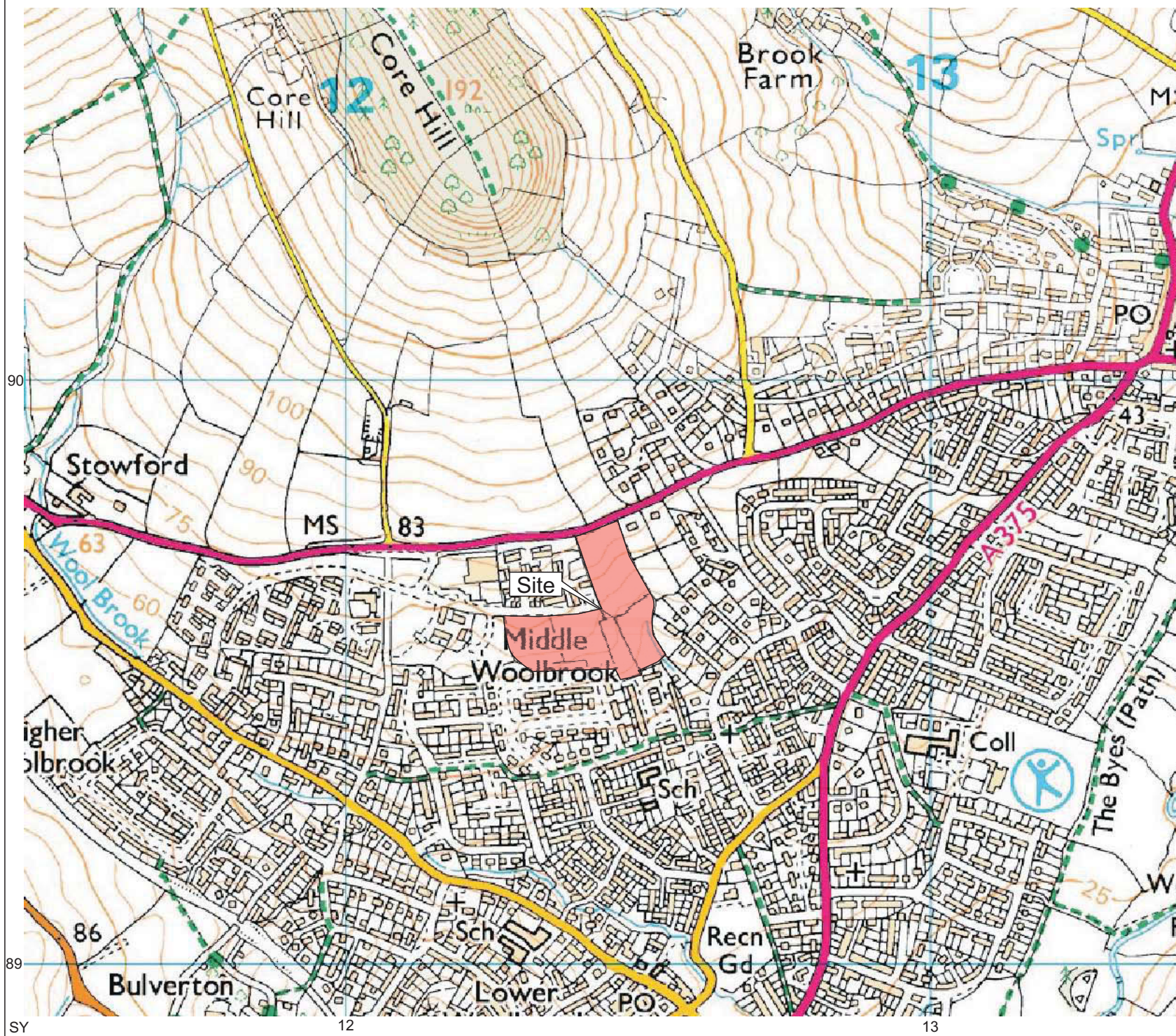
- 9.1 The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited at Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under the accession code 274/2009, along with any archive generated by any subsequent work on the site. The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 64022.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was coordinated on behalf of RPS by Jonathan Reynolds and Steve Taylor. The site trial-trenching was carried out by Simon Hughes and Chris Caine and the illustrations for this report were prepared by Sarah Cottam. The advice and collaboration of Stephen Reed, Devon County Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

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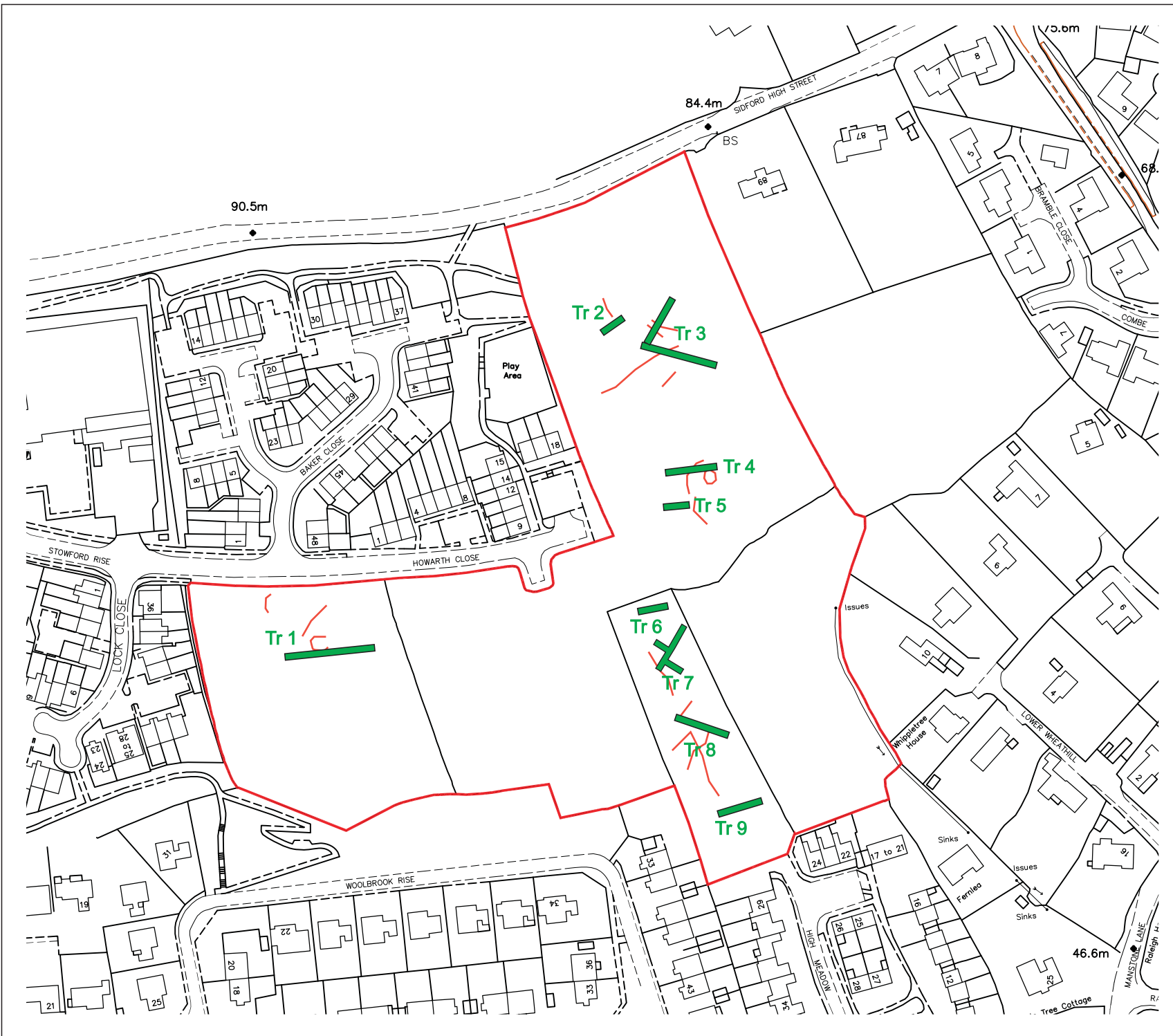
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Stowford Rise, Sidford

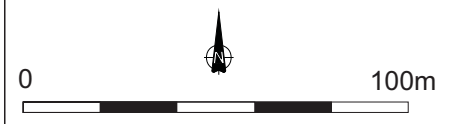
TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location





- Geophysical survey results
- Evaluation trench



PROJECT  
Stowford Rise, Sidford

TITLE  
Fig. 2:  
Location of trenches in relation  
to interpreted geophysics results

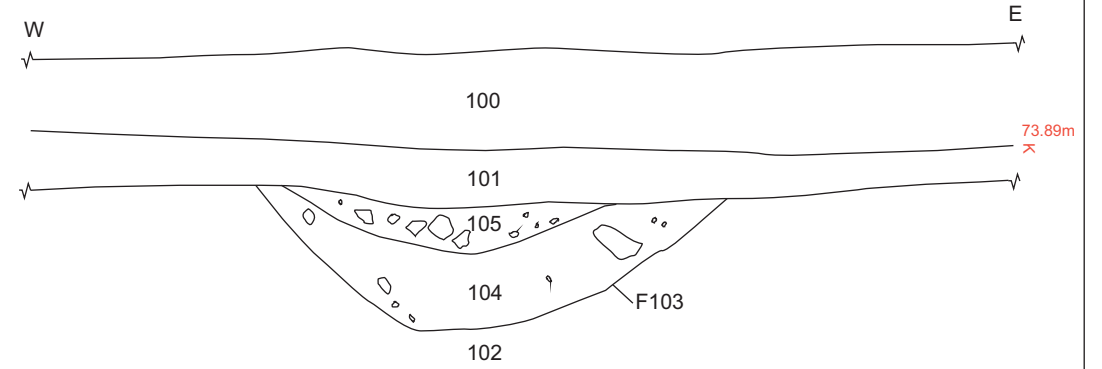


### Trench 1

#### a) Plan

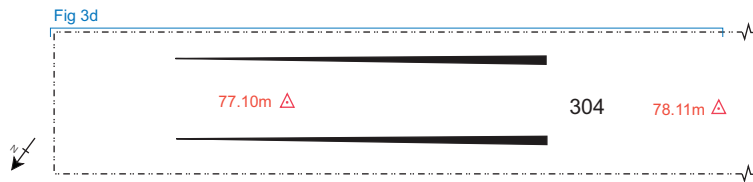


#### b) Section



### Trench 3

#### c) Plan



#### d) Section

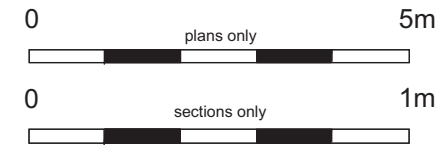
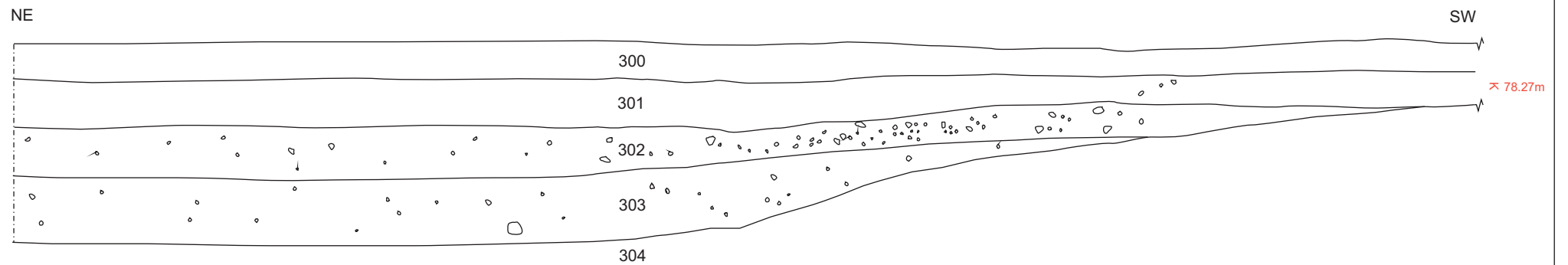


Fig. 3: Plans and sections, Trenches 1 and 3

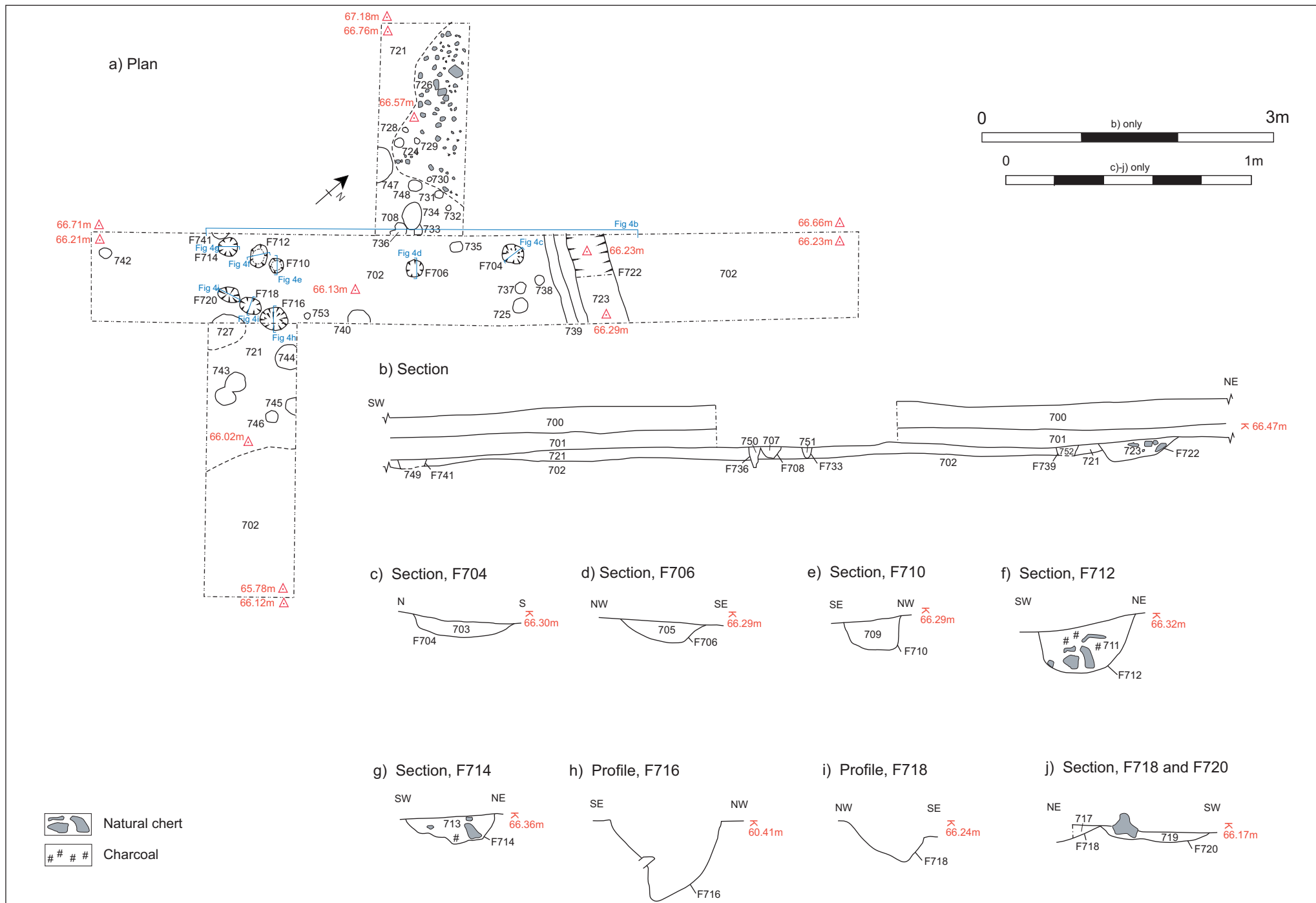
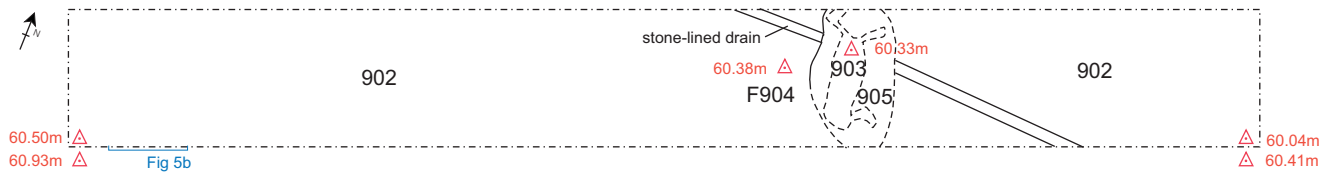


Fig. 4: Plans and sections, Trench 7

a) Plan



b) Representative section

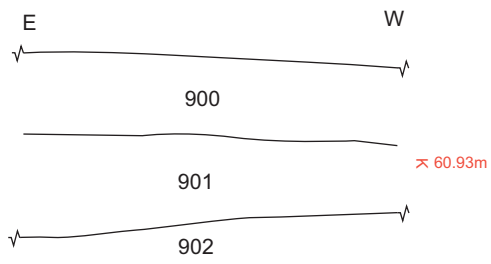


Fig. 5: Plan and section, Trench 9





Plate 1: General view of site, looking southeast from Trench 8



Plate 2: Ditch F103, Trench 1. View to west (scale 1m)



Plate 3: The layer sequence within the natural hollow, Trench 3  
View to south (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Animal skeleton 903, Trench 9. View to southwest  
(scale 1m)



Plate 5: Excavated prehistoric features, southwest end of Trench 7.  
View to northeast (scale 1m)



Plate 6: Prehistoric features and subsoil layers, Trench 7  
northwest extension. View to northwest (scale 1m)

## APPENDIX 1

### Descriptions of negative trenches

Appendix 1: Descriptions of negative trenches

Trench 2			Length 11m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
200	Dark reddish-brown friable sandy clay silt with occasional sub-angular chert stone inclusions.	0-0.24m	Topsoil		
201	Mid red friable silty clay with common sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0.24-0.49m	Subsoil		
202	Mid red firm clay with common chert gravels	0.49m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 4			Length 20m	Width 1.9m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
400	Dark reddish-brown friable sandy clay silt with occasional sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0-0.25m	Topsoil		
401	Mid red friable silty clay with common sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0.25-0.45m	Subsoil		
402	Mid red firm clay	0.45m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 5			Length 10m	Width 1.9m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
500	Dark reddish-brown friable sandy clay silt with occasional sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0-0.26m	Topsoil		
501	Mid red friable silty clay with common sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0.26-0.59m	Subsoil		
502	Mid red firm clay	0.59m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 6			Length 12m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
600	Dark reddish-brown friable sandy clay silt with occasional sub-angular chert stone inclusions.	0-0.2m	Topsoil		
601	Mid red friable silty clay with common sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0.2-0.47m	Subsoil		
602	Mid red firm clay	0.47m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 8			Length 22m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
800	Dark reddish-brown friable sandy clay silt with occasional sub-angular chert stone inclusions.	0-0.22m	Topsoil		
801	Mid red friable silty clay with common sub-angular chert stone inclusions	0.22-0.37mm	Subsoil		
802	Mid red firm clay	0.37m+	Natural subsoil		

### Wiltshire Office

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

Telephone: 01747 820581  
Fax: 01747 820440

### Devon Office

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

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

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