

Phase 2 land, Higher Woolbrook, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon

NGR SY 11487 89499

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

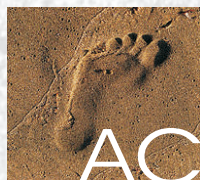
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On behalf of
Persimmon Homes (South West)

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AC archaeology

PHASE 2 LAND, HIGHER WOOLBROOK, SIDFORD, SIDMOUTH DEVON

(NGR SY 11487 89499)

Results of an archaeological trench evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological trench evaluation, carried out in support of a future planning application for residential development on land at Higher Woolbrook (Phase 2), Sidford, Sidmouth (NGR SY 11487 89499), was undertaken by AC archaeology during February and March 2011. The site occupies an area of approximately 7 hectares over four plots of land that are mostly arable and located to the southwest of Woolbrook Road. Prior to this work there were no recorded archaeological remains present on the site, but it is located in a general area where evidence for prehistoric activity has been previously identified.

The evaluation comprised the machine-excavation of 21 trenches totalling 1105m in length and each trench 1.9m wide, with these positioned to provide representative coverage across the site. Archaeological features and deposits were present and were mainly located at the southeast end of the site. Elsewhere, generally negative results were recorded or post-medieval/modern features were present.

A deep series of soil deposits was recorded towards the southeast end of the site, with these formed in a relatively low-lying area and comprising buried soil layers sealed by thick colluvium and ploughsoil. A moderate assemblage of worked flint/chert including cores and waste flakes, as well as three sherds of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the primary layers. Two early former boundary ditches were recorded close to this area, with these potentially dating to at any time from the later prehistoric through to the medieval period. A notable quantity of worked flint/chert was recovered from the ploughsoil throughout the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trench evaluation carried out in support of a future planning application for residential development on land at Higher Woolbrook, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon, was undertaken by AC archaeology during February and March 2011. The work was commissioned by WYG Planning and Design on behalf of Persimmon Homes (South West) Ltd. and was undertaken following consultation with Devon Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2 The site occupies four plots of land that are mostly arable, although the field to the east is overgrown with dense vegetation. The fields are mainly divided by hedgebank boundaries. The southwest boundary is formed by the route of the former Sidmouth railway line, with Woolbrook Road to the northeast and the Woolbrook River beyond. The site lies between 61m and 71m OD and covers an area of approximately 7 hectares, situated on ground that generally slopes moderately to steeply down to the northeast (Plate 1).
- 1.3 The underlying solid geology across the site comprises Sidmouth mudstone formation and Otter sandstone formation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 While there are no known previously recorded archaeological sites or monuments on the site itself, it is located in an area where evidence for prehistoric activity has been previously identified, including cropmark enclosures, worked flint scatters, barrows and sites of cairns.
- 2.2 Recent work in the vicinity of the site has identified evidence for prehistoric activity. Immediately to the south a series of deep alluvial and colluvial deposits extending along the Woolbrook River were present, which included deposits likely to date from the Bronze Age (Hughes 2010). A late Bronze Age to early Iron Age small settlement excavated approximately

1km to the east at Stowford Rise exposed a concentrated area of ditches, pits and postholes in association with a significant assemblage of pottery and worked flint (AC archaeology *in prep.*).

- 2.3 Immediately to the west of the site is the small hamlet of Stowford, with a settlement recorded here as early as 1281. The name is likely to derive from its proximity to the Wool Brook, probably meaning 'ford marked by staves or posts'.
- 2.4 The Sidmouth parish tithe map of 1839 shows the site at this time as part of a series of medieval strip fields aligned at right angles to Woolbrook Road. Field names recorded on the accompanying tithe apportionment of 1841 include 'Nappy Close', 'Lower Woodlands', 'Furze Grove', Hookland's Orchard and Lawman's Park'. The name Nappy Close is not clear but perhaps relates to an adjacent orchard (Napple Piece) or to land on a steep hillside (The Nap).
- 2.5 By 1888, the Ordnance Survey first-edition 25-inch map depicts the route of the Sidmouth Branch line as bisecting the existing fields and bounding the current site to the southwest. Further changes are present on the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1934 comprising the addition of a nursery and wind pump towards the northeast of the site and two tracks leading into these areas from Woolbrook Road. This arrangement is broadly similar in the current pattern, although some boundaries have been removed to create more open plots.

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 as 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 comprised the machine-excavation of 21 trenches totalling 1040m in length and with each 1.9m wide (Fig. 2). This represented an approximate 3% of the proposed development area. Trenches were positioned generally throughout the site to provide a sampled coverage, although it was not possible to excavate any trenches in the northern portion due to the potential for hibernating dormice. Machine-excavation ceased at the level at which natural subsoil or archaeological deposits were exposed.
- 4.2 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology proforma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. Detailed sections or plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, and all site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

For a number of trenches (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 18) there was no evidence for archaeological features or deposits and these are described in tabulated form only in Appendix 1. The trenches with archaeological features or deposits are described in more detail below. Relevant plans and sections are included as Figs 3 to 9 and photographs as Plates 1-2.

5.2 Trench 4 (Plan and sections Fig. 3)

This 75m long trench was located on top of small knoll and was excavated to 0.28m onto natural subsoil, which comprised light yellowish-red sand (406). This was under a mid reddish-

brown clayey-sand subsoil (401) and a mid brown silty-sand ploughsoil (400). The trench contained a probable pit (F402) and a northwest to southeast aligned linear feature (F404).

F402 was partially exposed, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.5m deep with steep to vertical sides and a flat base. It contained the articulated remains of a probable cow (not retained) and a mid reddish-brown clayey-sand fill (403) with occasional small flint gravel, charcoal and clinker inclusions. A number of finds was recovered from fill 403, which includes sherds of 19th century industrial whitewares, stonewares, red earthenwares and modern china pottery, as well as a clay tobacco pipe stem.

F404 was 1.13m wide and 0.15m deep with gradually sloping irregular sides and a flattish base. The probable ditch contained a mid reddish-brown clayey-sand fill (405). The remains of a partially articulated dog skeleton was present on the base of the feature (not retained) and a number of finds were recovered from fill 405, including modern glass, pottery and an iron nail.

5.3 Trench 6 (Plan and sections Fig. 4; Plates 2 and 3)

This 65m long trench was excavated onto natural subsoil which comprised a mixed light yellowish-red to greyish-yellow sand (609), present at a depth that ranged from 0.3m in the northeast to 1.7m towards the southwest within a machine and hand-excavated sondage.

At the far southwest end of the trench a natural subsoil of mid grey sand with abundant flint and chert gravels was present at a depth of 0.9m (614). Natural subsoil layers 609 and 614 were overlain by a sequence of sandy buried soil horizons and colluvial deposits (606, 615, 611, 605, 612, 613 and 604). Layer 606 was the earliest in the sequence and comprised a mottled light grey clayey-sand with occasional flint gravel and charcoal fleck inclusions. Within layer 606 was a lens of dark grey sand with abundant charcoal inclusions (610). Layer 606 was overlain by a deposit of mid greyish-brown silty sand (615) that was sealed by light reddish-brown sand (611). Layer 611 was overlain by 605, which comprised a mixed mid brown silty-sand and was below layer 612, a mid greyish-brown silty-sand containing occasional charcoal flecks. The sequence was completed with thick homogenous light to mid brownish-red silty-sand colluvial layers (613 and 604) and then ploughsoil (600).

Two sherds of Bronze Age pottery and a total of 108 pieces of worked flint/chert were recovered from layer 606. From the overlying layers one sherd of Bronze Age pottery and 14 pieces of worked flint/chert were recovered from layer 605 and 22 pieces from colluvial layer 604.

Colluvial layer 604 was cut towards the middle of the trench by a northwest to southeast aligned linear feature (F603). The probable ditch was 1.9m wide and 0.36m deep with a moderately steep sloping northeast side, a gradual sloping southwest side and a concave base. It contained a basal fill of mid red sandy clay (602) that was overlain by a dark greyish-brown sandy-loam (601), with occasional cinder pieces and gravel inclusions. Three sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered from fill 601, which consist of salt-glazed stoneware and industrial white ware as well two sherds of bottle glass, a copper alloy circular fitting and two handmade brick fragments.

5.4 Trench 9 (Plan Fig. 5a, sections 5b-e; Plate 4)

This trench was 50m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m onto natural subsoil (902), which comprised a light brownish-red sand. This was below a mid brownish-red silty-sand colluvial subsoil (901) and ploughsoil (900). The trench contained a northwest to southeast aligned linear feature (F903).

F903 was a maximum of 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. Two segments were excavated into the feature (905 and 907), which exposed moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base and a consistent homogenous light reddish-brown silty-sand fill (904/906). Two fragments of undiagnostic iron slag were recovered from fill 904.

5.5 Trench 10 (Section Fig. 5f)

This trench was 50m long and excavated to a depth between 1.5m (southeast) and 0.8m (northwest) onto natural subsoil (1005), which comprised a mixed light reddish-brown to yellowish-brown sandy-clay with abundant flint gravel inclusions. The natural subsoil was overlain by a dark reddish-brown sandy-loam buried soil horizon (1002), which was sealed by a homogenous mid reddish-brown silty-sand colluvial layer (1001).

At the southeast end of the trench the colluvial layer was cut by a possible posthole or small pit (F1003). This was 0.2m wide and 0.15m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-sand fill (1004) which was sealed by ploughsoil (1000).

5.6 Trench 14 (Plan Fig. 6a, section 6b)

This trench was 50m long and excavated to 0.5m onto natural subsoil (1402), which comprised a light reddish-grey sandy-clay with abundant flint gravels. This was below a colluvial subsoil (1401) and ploughsoil (1400). The trench contained a northeast to southwest aligned unexcavated linear feature (F1403), which was 1.08m wide and cut through colluvial layer 1401. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-sand fill (1404) and no finds were recovered.

5.7 Trench 15 (Sections Fig. 6c-d)

This trench was 50m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m onto natural subsoil (1503), which comprised a light brownish-red sandy-clay with abundant flint gravel inclusions. The natural subsoil was sealed throughout the trench by a mid brown silty-clay buried soil horizon with common gravel inclusions (1502). This was under a final sequence of mid brownish-red homogenous sandy-loam colluvium (1501) and ploughsoil (1500). One piece of worked flint was recovered from buried soil layer 1502.

5.8 Trench 19 (Plan and sections Fig. 7; Plate 5)

This trench totalled 70m in length and was excavated to depths between 0.26m and 0.42m onto natural subsoil, which comprised a mid red sandy-clay. This was below colluvium (1901) and then ploughsoil towards the northeast and just ploughsoil to the southwest.

An east-west aligned linear feature crossed through two parts of the trench (F1903 and F1908). F1903 was 2.07m wide and 0.9m deep with moderate to steep sloping sides, which were stepped on the north side, onto a flat base. The probable ditch contained a series of four fills that comprised a basal fill of mid brownish-red re-deposited natural subsoil (1904) with common flint and chert inclusions. This was sealed by a homogenous dark reddish-grey clayey-silt fill (1905), which was below a mid brown silty-clay (1906) and then a final fill of dark reddish-brown sandy-loam (1907). Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 1904, 12 from fill 1905 and 13 from 1907.

F1908 was 1.58m wide and contained a dark reddish-brown sandy-loam fill (1909) that had common flint gravel inclusion. The feature was unexcavated and no finds were recovered from its exposed surface.

5.9 Trench 20 (Section Fig. 8)

This trench was 50m long and positioned down the gradient from a break in slope in the northwest. Natural subsoil, which comprised a light yellow to light red sand (2004), was exposed at a depth of 0.35m towards the northwest of the trench. This was overlain by a

further natural subsoil of light yellowish-grey alluvial silty clay (2003) that contained abundant unworked flint gravel inclusions.

Natural subsoil layer 2003 was overlain towards the southeast by a mid brown silty-clay buried soil horizon (2002), which was sealed by a mid brownish-red sandy-loam colluvial subsoil (2001) that was under ploughsoil (2000). Three pieces of worked flint were recovered from layer 2002.

5.10 Trench 21 (Plans and sections Fig. 9; Plate 6)

This additional trench totalled 90m in length and was excavated onto natural subsoil, which was present at a depth of between 0.34m in the southwest and 0.66m in the northeast, under subsoil (2101) and ploughsoil (2100) layers.

The trench contained two likely equivalent linear features (F2105/F2107), cut by a NNE-SSW aligned linear feature (F2103).

F2105/F2107 was a maximum of 3.4m wide and contained similar dark reddish brown sandy-loam fills (2106 and 2108). The feature was unexcavated, although two pieces of worked flint were recovered from exposed fill 2106.

F2103 was 2.11m wide and 0.32m deep, with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a mid reddish-brown silty-sand fill (2104) with moderately common gravel inclusions. Two pieces of animal bone and 3 pieces of worked flint were recovered from fill 2104.

6. THE FINDS

by Emma Firth and Julian Richards

6.1 Introduction

All finds recovered on site have been retained, cleaned and marked where appropriate. The metal objects have been stabilised by suitable packaging to prevent further corrosion. Finds have been quantified according to material type within each context, then scanned by context to extract information regarding the range, nature and date of artefacts represented. This information is briefly discussed below. Finds quantifications are included as Appendix 2.

6.2 Worked and burnt flint/chert by Julian Richards

An assemblage totalling 352 pieces of worked stone (both flint and chert) was examined. Pieces were examined individually and catalogued according to broadly accepted categories within the lithic reduction sequence (cores, flakes, tools etc). In addition, although these observations were not made on a piece by piece basis, within context groups notes were made relating to the nature of the reduction, the occurrence of hinge fractures and miss-hits and the varying degrees of patination (cortication). Individual tools and retouched pieces that could potentially have recognisable functions were extracted and recorded individually (as Special Finds). These include recognisable tools of earlier prehistoric date (Neolithic or Early Bronze Age). The breakdown of the overall assemblage is given in Appendix 3.

Description and discussion

As part of the sorting process attempts were made to separate the worked material into 'flint' and 'chert'. However, it became apparent that the majority of the raw material was highly variable and that individual pieces (flakes for example) could, over their length, exhibit characteristics of both chert and flint. This variation does not seem to have affected selection and use, as both types of material appear to have been used for the full range of products.

Cores vary from crude 'bashed lumps' from which a small number of flakes have been removed before discard, to more systematic flake cores showing evidence of platform preparation and rejuvenation. The majority of the products are flakes although there is a small amount of evidence for blade production, potentially of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date (e.g. context 1000). The largest context group (606) contains the highest proportion of cores (here split 50/50 flint/chert) and is the most industrial looking of all those examined, with very little retouched material.

In the absence of individual diagnostic tools or associated dating material and with a fairly uniform flake technology it is not possible to make any further comments about this assemblage, other than it is likely to be late prehistoric, probably Bronze Age in date.

6.3 Prehistoric pottery

A total of four sherds (37g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered, three sherds (27g) from buried soil horizon in Trench 6 (606) and one sherd (10g) from another buried soil horizon within the same trench (605). Two of the sherds are in a moderately soft fabric; with coarse, poorly sorted flint inclusions and the fabric of the remaining two sherds (which conjoin) are a soft, fine sandy fabric with rare coarse flint inclusions. None of the sherds are diagnostic, but are Bronze Age and more likely from the earlier part of that period.

6.4 Medieval pottery

A single sherd of medieval (13th century) pottery was recovered from the ploughsoil in Trench 9. The sherd comes from the neck of a jar with a diameter of approximately 150mm. The fabric is a coarse sandy fabric and is similar to the Exeter type fabrics.

6.5 Post-medieval pottery

A total of 16 (167g) of post medieval (19th and 20th century) pottery was recovered. Of this total, the majority was recovered from pit F402 (fill 403) and includes industrial whitewares, stonewares, red earthenwares and modern china.

6.6 Glass

A total of seven (136g) of 19th century glass was recovered. The glass includes the base of a wine bottle, paste bottles and various other unidentifiable bottle fragments. The majority of the glass (five pieces) was recovered from the pit F402 (fill 403) and the remainder from ditch F603 (fill 601).

6.7 Iron objects

A total of three iron objects was recovered from pit F402 (fill 403) and context 405, F404. Only one object (from 405) is identifiable as a possible nail, the remaining objects are too corroded, although all are considered to be of 19th century/modern date on the basis of their association with other finds from these contexts.

6.8 Copper alloy object

A single copper alloy object was recovered from ditch F603 (fill 601). The object is of 19th /20th century date and is a circular fitting.

6.9 Slag

A total of four (8g) of undiagnostic iron slag was recovered from ditch F903 (fill 904) and pit F402 (fill 403). Such a small amount is not indicative of any industrial process taking place on the site and its presence is incidental.

6.10 Clay pipe

A single (2g) clay pipe stem of post medieval date was recovered from pit F402 (fill 403).

6.11 Brick

A total of two pieces (523g) of brick was recovered. The fragments are of post-medieval date and one is handmade. There are no diagnostic features on either fragment nor are there any full dimensions. The fabric of both is sandy with few inclusions.

6.12 Animal bone

A total of 32 fragments (41g) of animal bone was recovered. The majority of the animal bone was recovered from post medieval features pit F402 (fill 403) and context 405, F404. The animal bone includes small mammal bones and rib bone from a pig. Animal bone was also recovered from ditch F2103 (fill 2106) and this is thought to be a large mammal rib. All the animal bone (with the exception of the bone from 405) is fragmentary, reflected by the low weight quantity, and is in poor, brittle condition.

7. SOIL SAMPLE ASSESSMENT

7.1 A total of three bulk 10 litre samples from six features in Trench 7 has been examined to assess the potential for palaeoenvironmental survival and the retrieval of artefacts. The residues have been scanned using a hand-held lens and the results are itemised by material type and quantity in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Results of soil sample scanning

Sample No.	Context No.	Context description	Charcoal potential	Flint/chert	Slag
1	610	Layer above (606)	+++	4 pieces 1.6g	
2	606	Layer	++	5 pieces 32.0g	
3	1905	Fill of linear F1903	++	3 pieces 2.7g	3 pieces 9.2g

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

7.2 The results indicate all deposits contain quantities of charcoal that would be suitable for radiocarbon dating and species identification. However, there is no carbonised grain, seeds or snails present. Small quantities of flint/chert debitage are present, as is iron slag from linear feature F1903, Trench 19.

7.3 The remain bulk and column samples have been retained in the event that no further archaeological work will be carried out on the site as a result of the application either being withdrawn or refused, or that further environmental analysis is required as part of a future programme of archaeological works.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation has identified the presence of a small number of archaeological features and deposits, which are principally located towards the southeast portion of the site. Across the remainder of the site there were generally negative results or post-medieval/modern features only.

8.2 There was a notable quantity of worked flint/chert recovered from the ploughsoil throughout the site. The presence of natural flint gravels and nodules from within the natural subsoil may suggest a source of raw material that may have been exploited in the prehistoric period. However, this potential for more extensive prehistoric activity on the site, based on the recovery of finds, was not reflected in the number of archaeological features recorded from this period.

- 8.3** The archaeological features and deposits present comprised the linear and pit features exposed in Trenches 4, 6, 9, 10, 19 and 21, as well as a series of buried soil layers recorded in Trenches 6, 10, 15 and 20.
- 8.4** The linear features exposed in Trenches 4 and 6 (F404 and F603) are dated to the post-medieval to modern period. In addition, F2103 in Trench 21 is also likely to be from this period. The presence of animal bone in this feature suggests a relatively recent date due to unsuitable soil conditions for long-term preservation. A continuation of this feature was recorded in Trench 14 (F1403). These probable ditches are all likely to be former boundaries relating to post-medieval land division, which had seemingly been removed by 1840 when the parish tithe map was produced.
- 8.5** The pit recorded in Trench 4 (F402) was also dated to the post-medieval to modern period. The presence of articulated bone suggests that it is a 19th or 20th-century animal burial, perhaps associated with the properties backing onto this part of the site. Possible pit or posthole F1003, although undated, cut through the colluvial subsoil layer, suggesting a comparable date.
- 8.6** The ditch exposed in Trenches 19 and 21 (F1903, F1908, F2105 and F2107) appears to extend in an approximate straight line diagonally down the gradient on an east to west alignment and increasing in width down slope from 1.58m to 3.4m. The orientation is not comparable with the post-medieval pattern of fields (generally NE-SW & NW-SE), suggesting that it is an earlier boundary feature. No further features were exposed that could be associated with the ditch. The date of the feature is certainly prior to the post-medieval period as it pre-dates ditch F2103, with finds recovered comprising worked flint/chert flakes and a small quantity of undiagnostic iron slag. The presence of the latter, if not intrusive, indicates a date at any time between the Iron Age and medieval periods.
- 8.7** The ditch exposed in Trench 9, F903 was undated but based on its fill type and presence below colluvial subsoil indicates it is also likely to be medieval or earlier in date.
- 8.8** The series of layers recorded in Trenches 6, 10, 15 and 20 comprise a generally consistent sequence of deposits that have formed in the low-lying area of the far southeast part of the site (Fig. 2). The layers broadly comprise an underlying sandy natural subsoil that is sealed by a more weathered sandy-gravel natural subsoil. These natural subsoil layers were recorded in Trench 20 (2004 and 2003) and separately in Trench 6 (609 and 614), with only the sandy gravel natural subsoil exposed in Trenches 10 and 15 (1005 and 1503). The natural subsoils are overlain by a probable buried soil horizon, which was recorded in Trench 10, 15 and 20 as a consistent dark silty sand (1002, 1502 and 2002).
- 8.9** The buried soil in Trench 6, which had the most complex and deep sequence of layers exposed, was evident as a number of separate silty-sand layers of differing compositions (606, 615, 611, 605 and 612). Finds from the buried soil horizons from each of these trenches comprise a few probably early Bronze Age pottery sherds and a number of worked flints. It is therefore likely that these lower layers are prehistoric in origin and perhaps represent a preserved land surface that has been sealed by later soil movement in this part of the site.
- 8.10** The majority of finds from the buried soils was recovered from Trench 6 and principally from layer 606. From this deposit over a hundred worked flints and three sherds of early Bronze Age pottery were recovered. The flint assemblage comprises mainly waste flakes and cores perhaps indicating tool manufacture in the vicinity. The well-sealed charcoal lens (610) is contemporary with layer 606.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The main archaeological interest in the site is the buried soil layers recorded in the lower-lying southeast part (Fig. 2). Prehistoric finds recovered from these layers suggest that there are remnants of a probable early land surface under thick colluvial deposits. These are present at a depth exceeding 0.65m below current ground level.
- 9.2 Elsewhere on the site a single fairly substantial ditch that was identified within Trenches 19 and 21 is also of some archaeological interest. The function of the ditch is unclear based on the evaluation results, although the absence of associated features indicates it is probably a boundary feature, which based on its stratigraphic position and recovered finds, could date from the later prehistoric to medieval periods.
- 9.3 Based on present evidence, any development within the area identified as having potential for buried soil layers that exceeds 0.65m is likely to impact on evidence for prehistoric occupation. Across the remainder of the site, the early ditches in Trenches 19, 21 and 9 are of interest, but elsewhere there is low potential for the presence of significant *in situ* buried archaeological remains.

10. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 10.1 The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ. They will be deposited at The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter under an accession number to be obtained after 2013.
- 10.2 The OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) number for this project is 98209.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The evaluation was commissioned by Robin Turner of WYG on behalf of Persimmon Homes (South West) Ltd. The site trial trenching was carried out by Simon Hughes, Naomi Hughes, Steve Robinson and Tina Tapply. The illustrations for this report were prepared by Cain Hegarty. The advice and collaboration of Stephen Reed, Devon Archaeology Officer, is duly acknowledged.

12. REFERENCES

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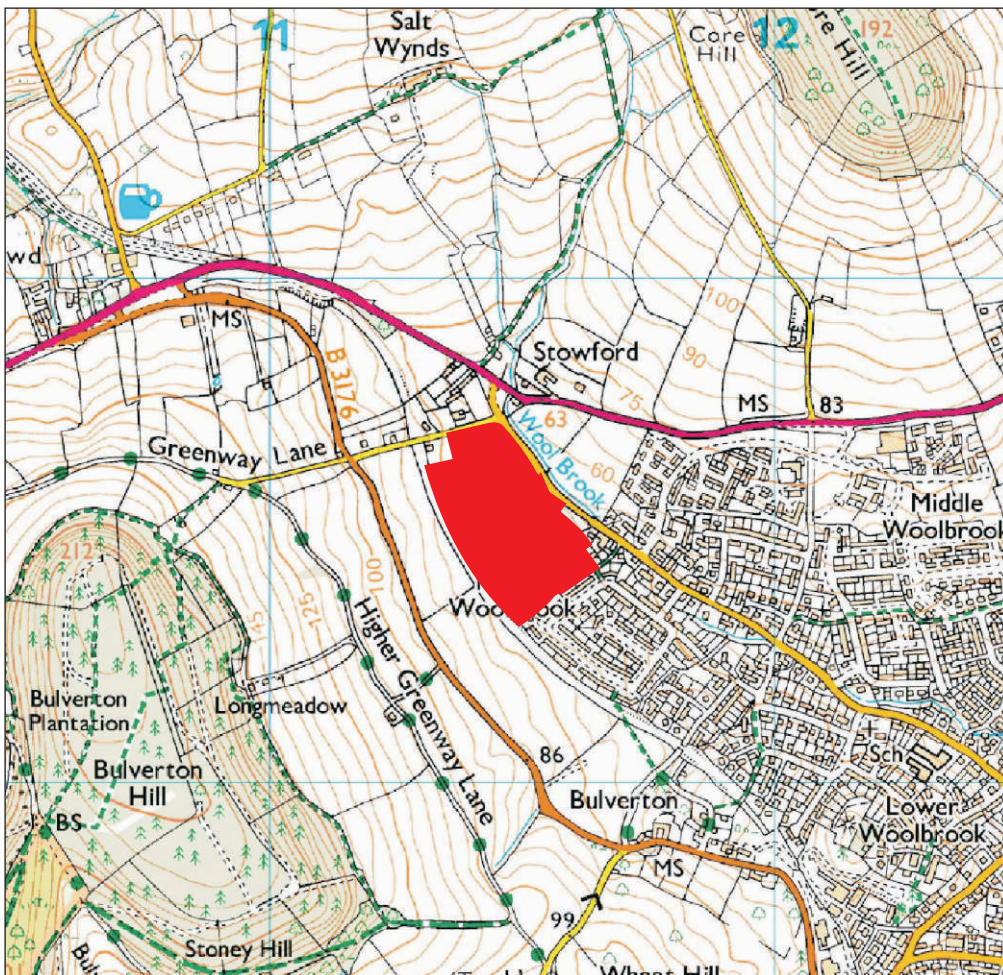
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Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire sheet 82.14, surveyed 1888, published 1889, revised 1903, published 1905, revised 1933, published 1934



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

Higher Woolbrook (Phase 2)

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site





- 
Trench location and number
- 
Trench and recorded feature
- 
Extent of deep soil sequence

0 50m



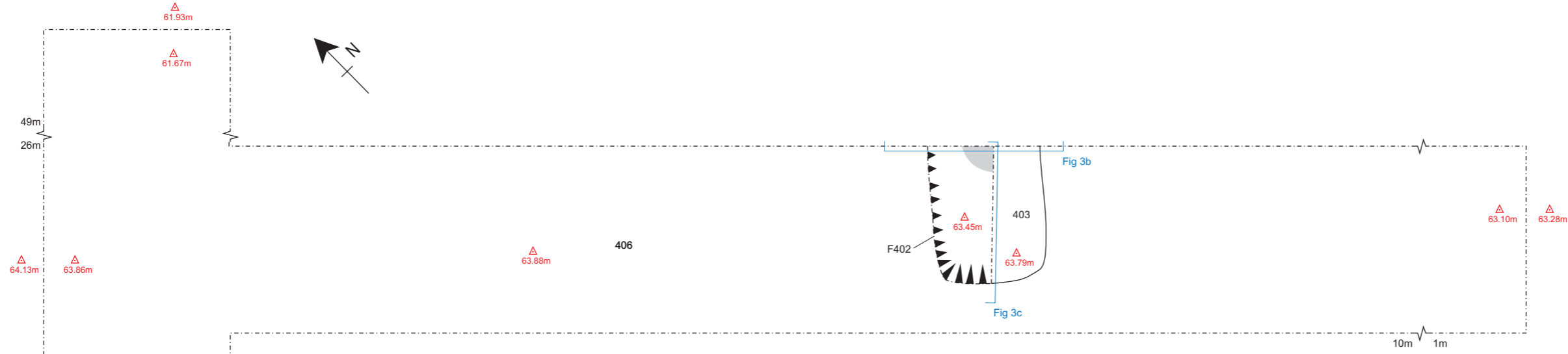
PROJECT 

Higher Woolbrook (Phase 2)

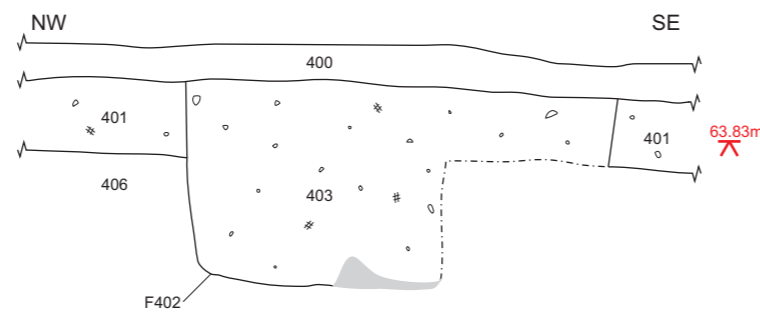
TITLE

Fig. 2: Trench locations showing recorded features and deposits

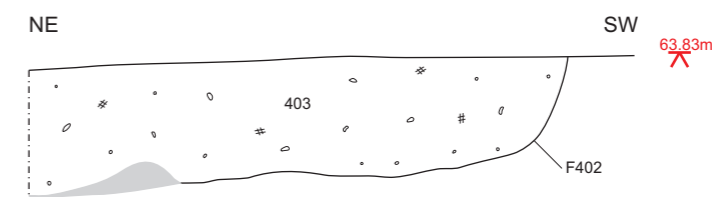
a) Plan of Trench 4



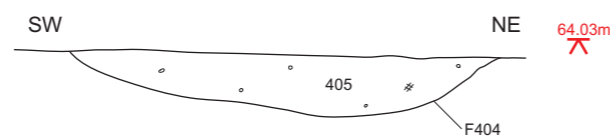
b) Section of feature F402






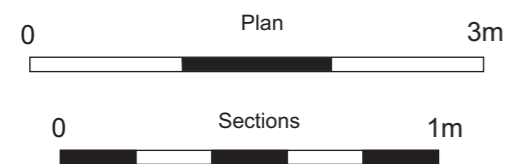
c) Section of feature F402



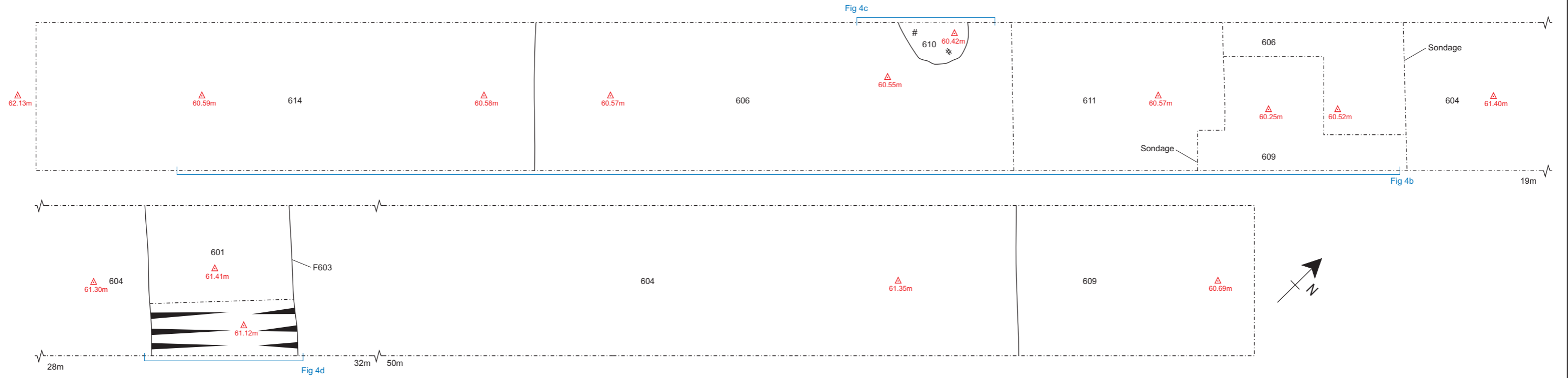
d) Section of feature F404



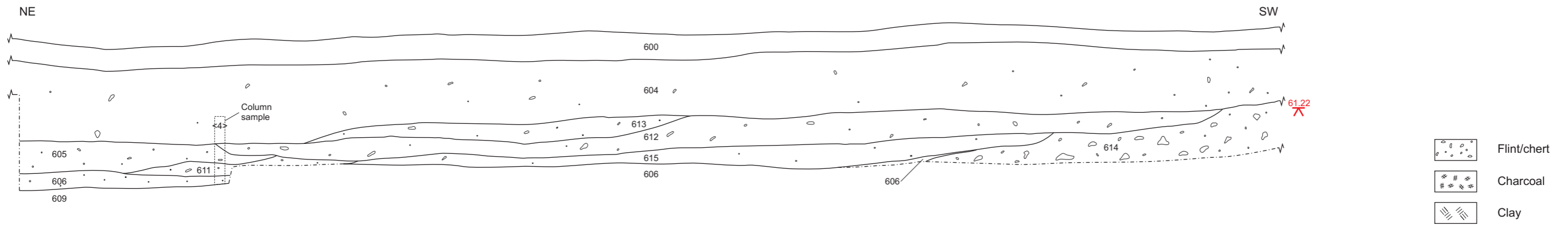
-  Animal remains
-  Flint/chert
-  Charcoal



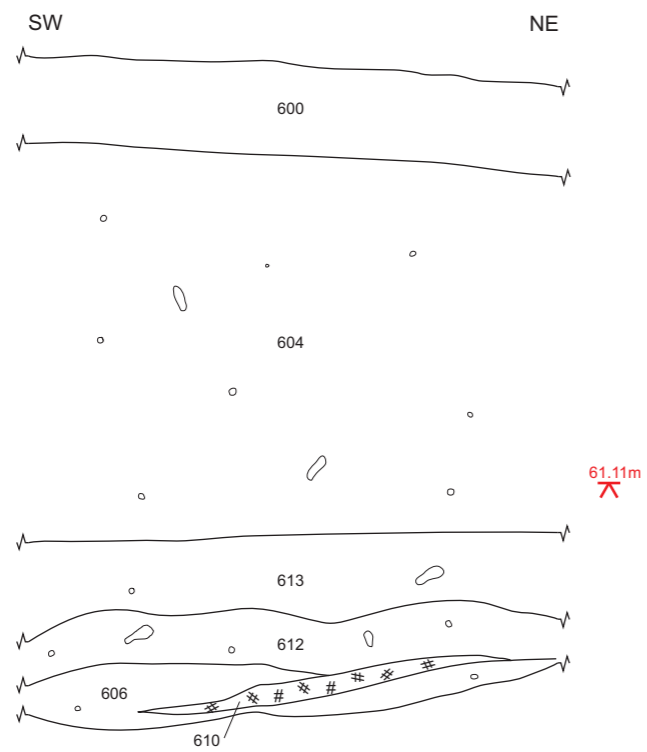
a) Plan of Trench 6



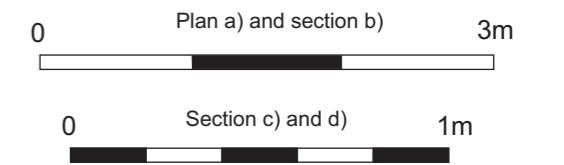
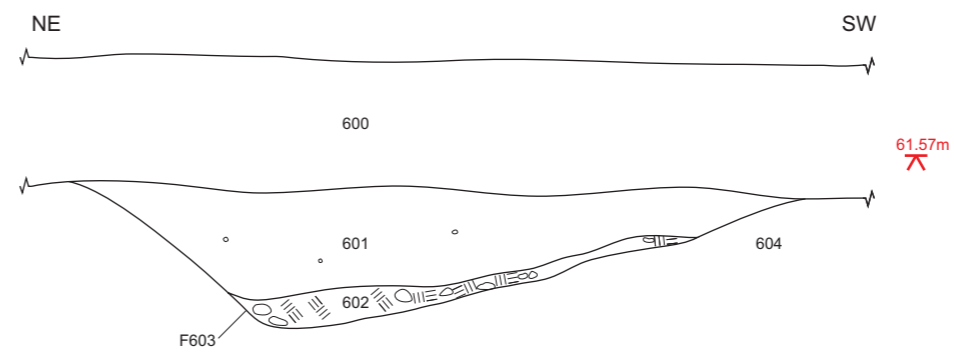
b) Northwest facing section of Trench 6



c) Representative section of Trench 6



d) Section of linear feature F603

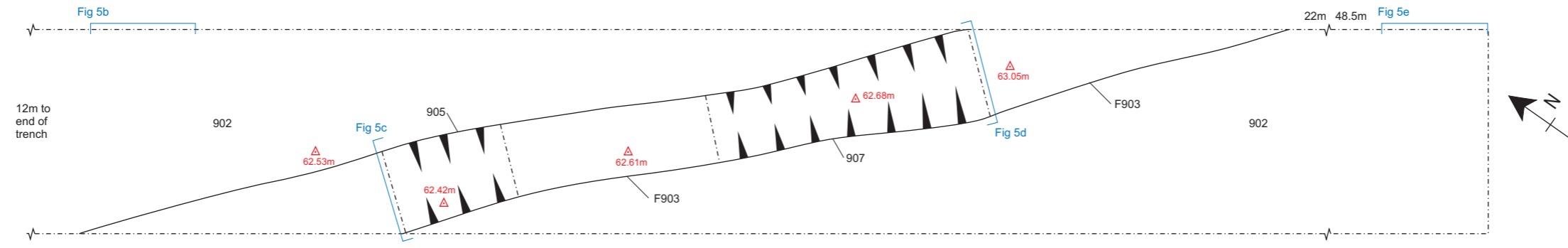


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Higher Woolbrook (Phase 2)

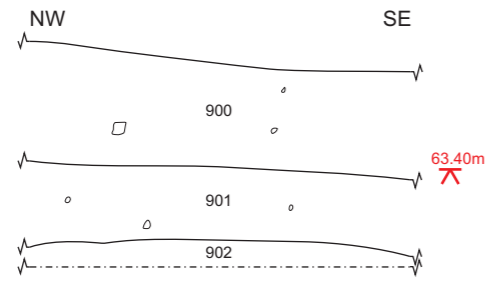
TITLE
Fig. 4: Trench 6 plans and sections



a) Plan of Trench 9



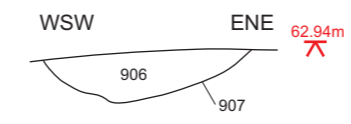
b) Representative section of Trench 9



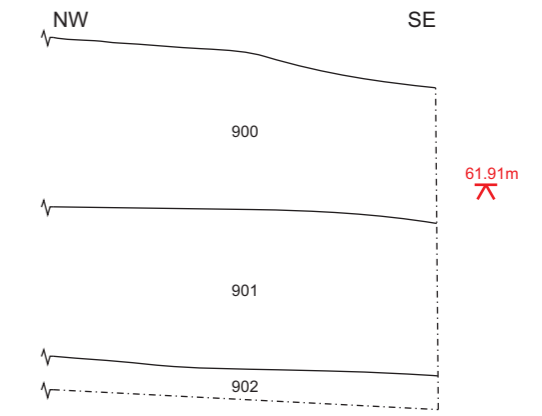
c) Section of 905



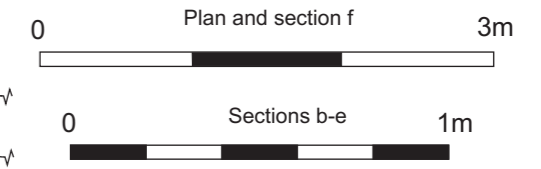
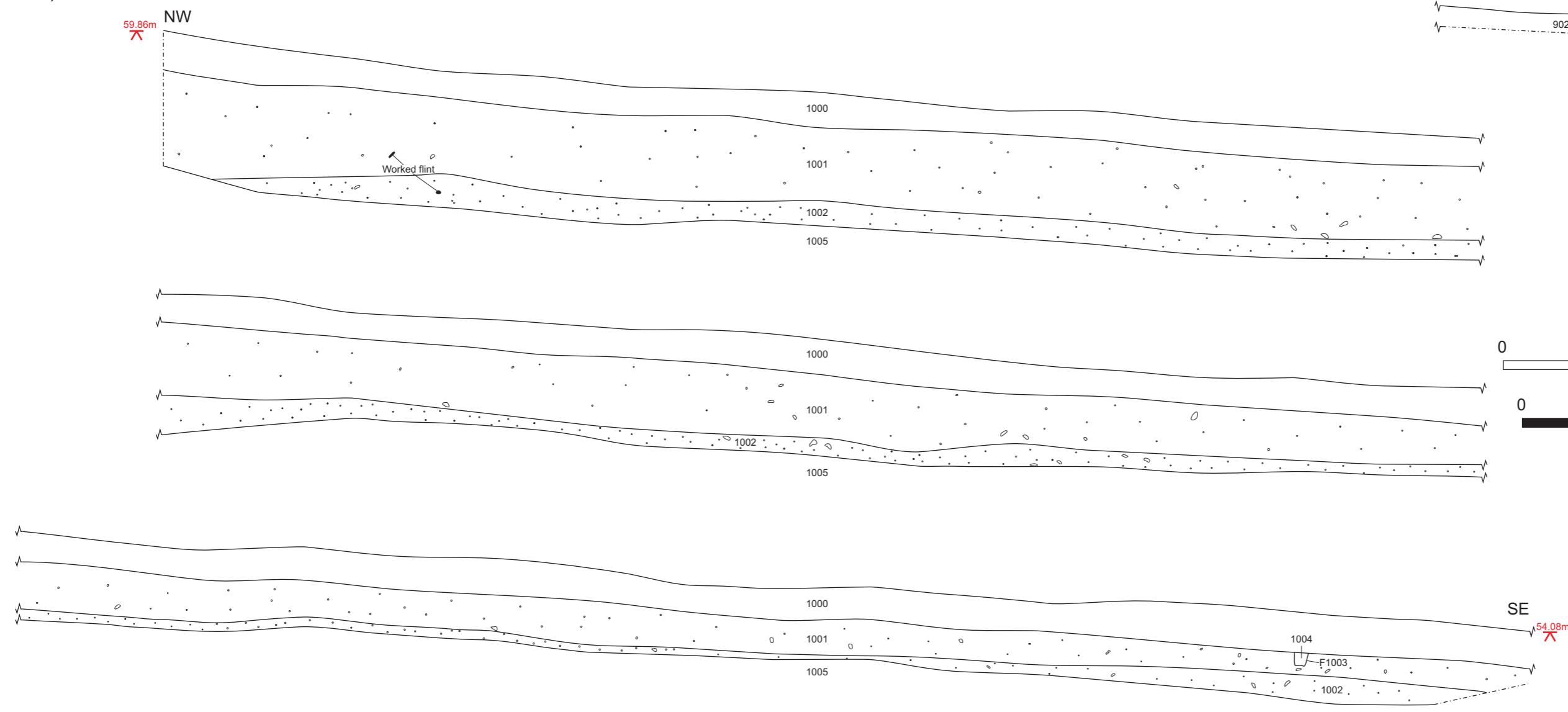
d) Section of 907



e) Representative section of Trench 9



f) Section of Trench 10

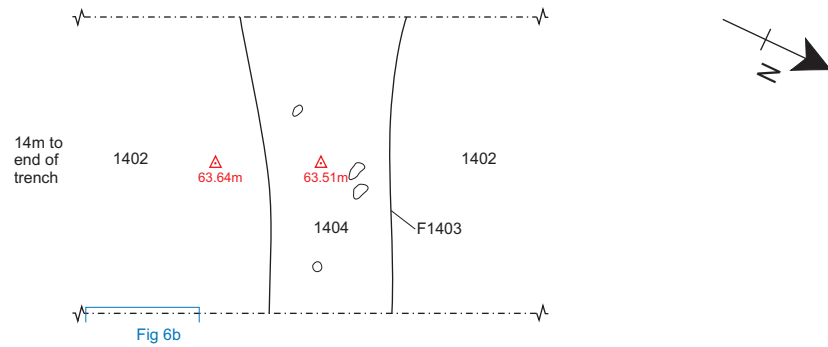


PROJECT
Higher Woolbrook (Phase 2)

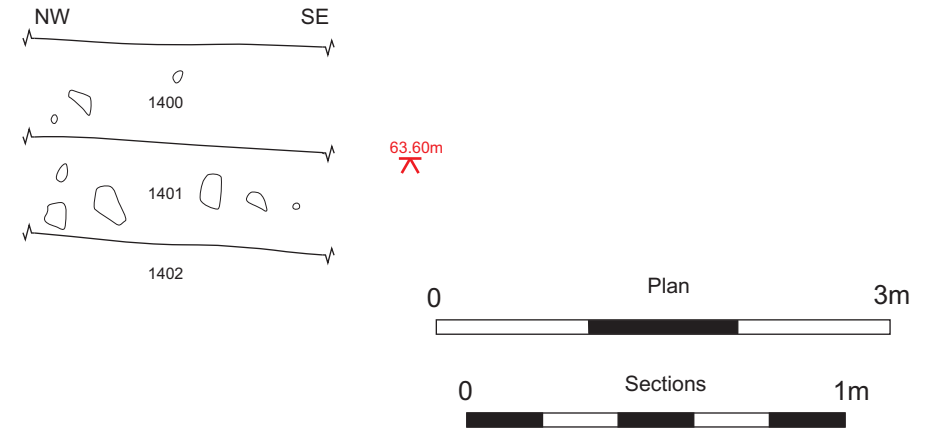
TITLE
Fig. 5: Trenches 9 and 10, plans and sections



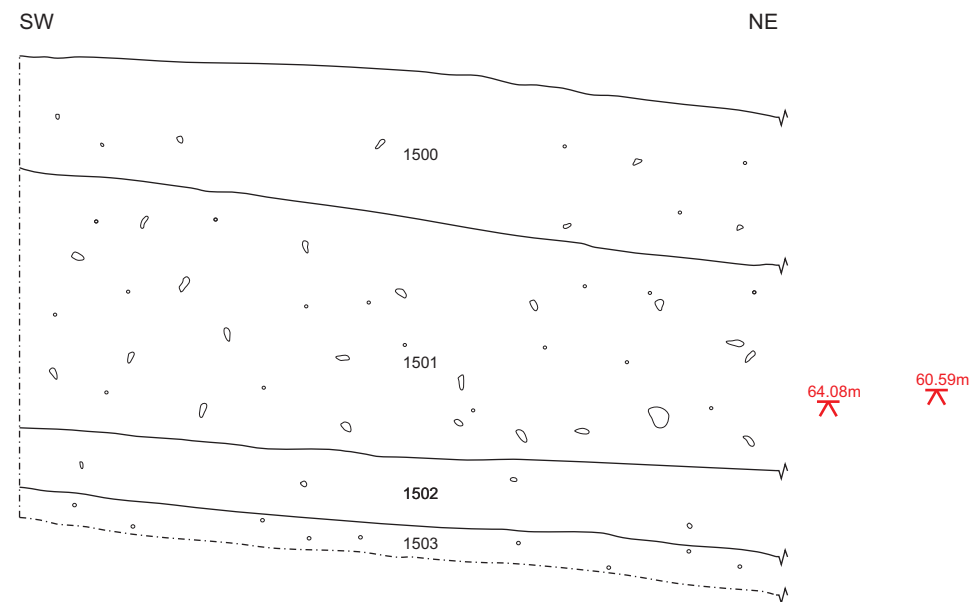
a) Plan of Trench 14



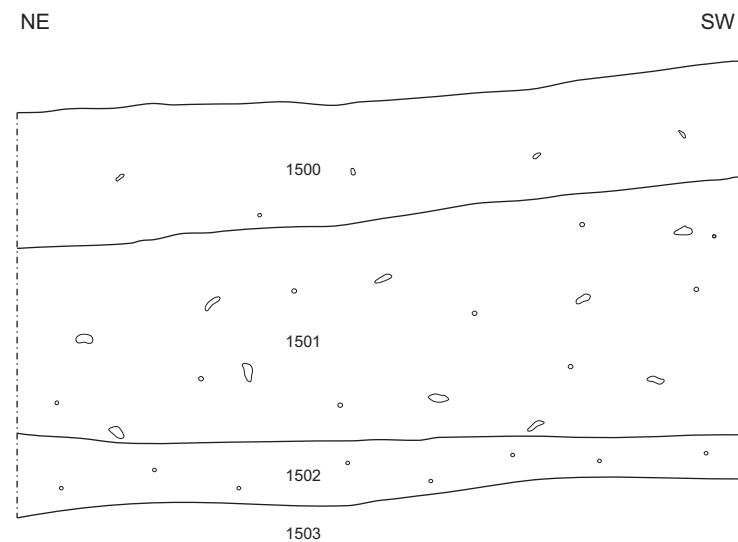
b) Representative section, Trench 14



c) Southeast facing representative section, Trench 15, southwest end



d) Northwest facing representative section, Trench 15, northeast end

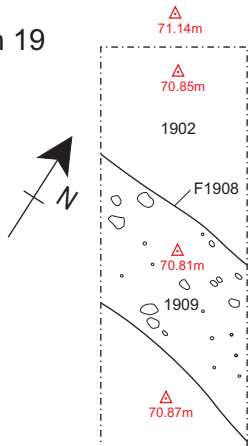


PROJECT
Higher Woolbrook
(Phase 2)

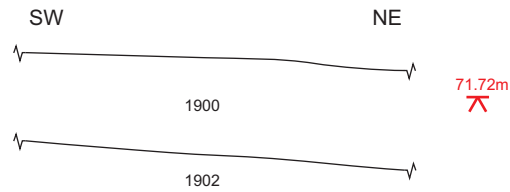
TITLE

Fig. 6: Trenches 14 and 15, plans and sections

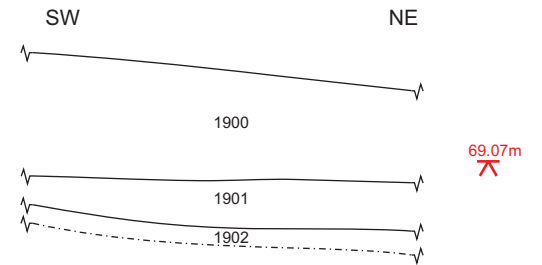
a) Plan of Trench 19



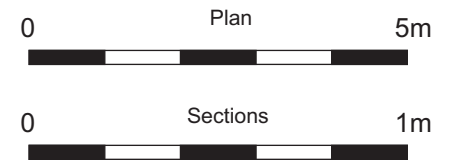
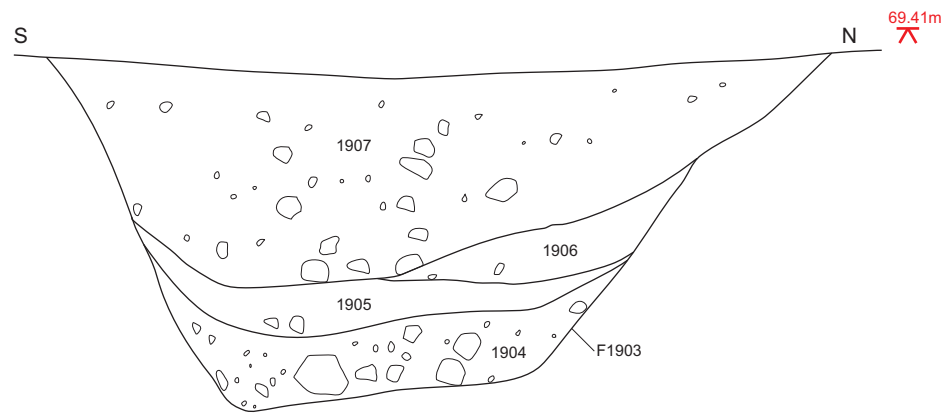
b) Representative section, Trench 19



c) Representative section, Trench 19

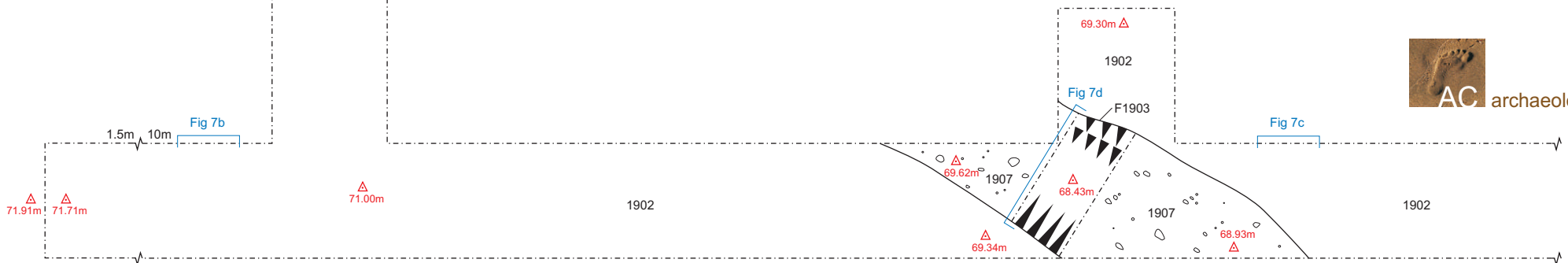


d) Section of F1903

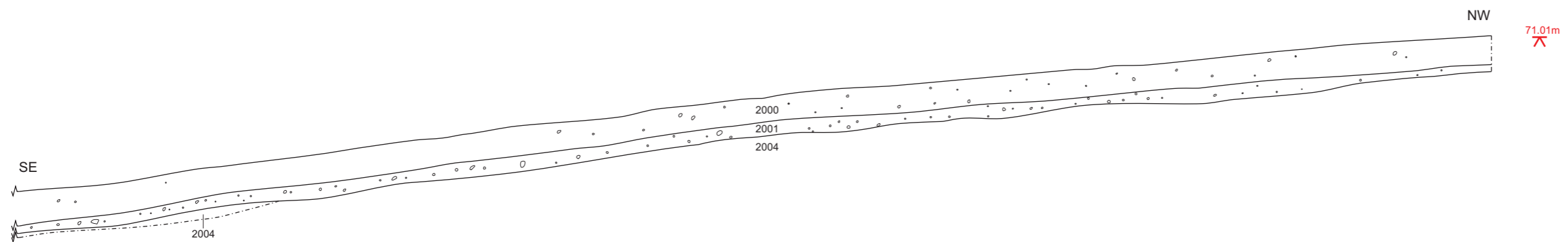
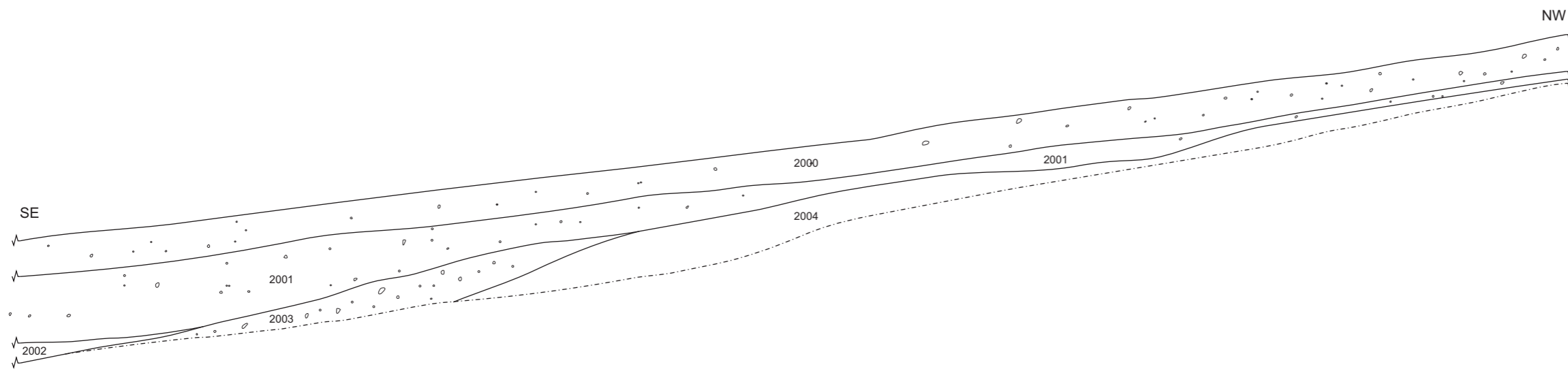
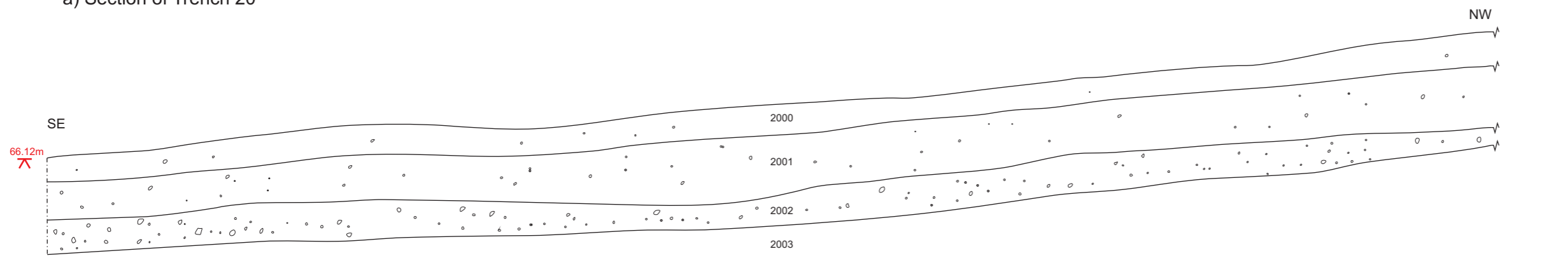


PROJECT
Higher Woolbrook
(Phase 2)

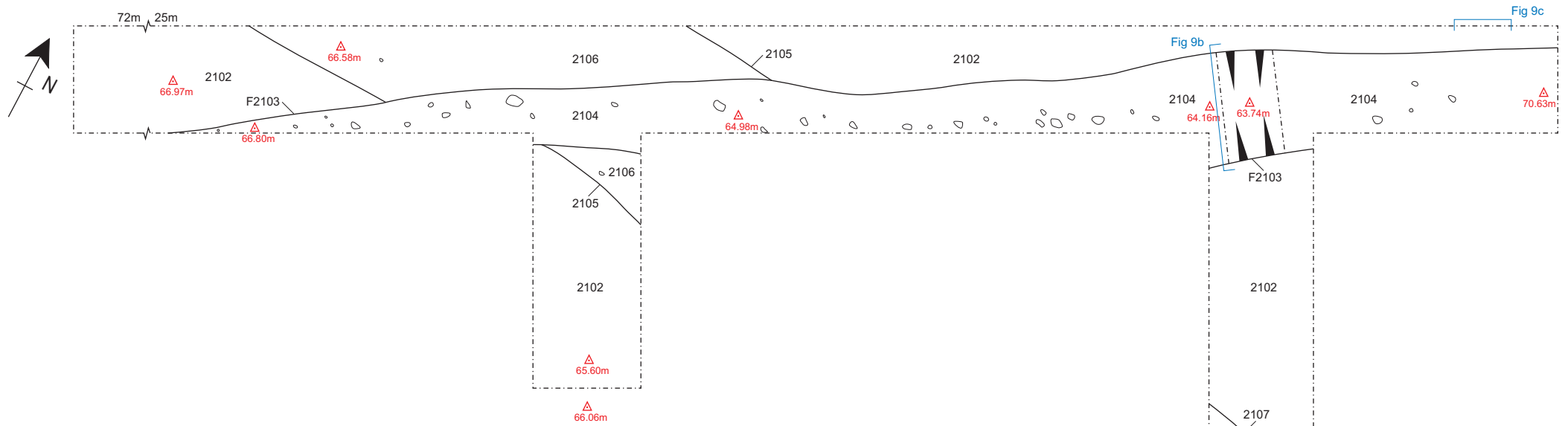
TITLE
Fig. 7: Trench 19, plans
and sections



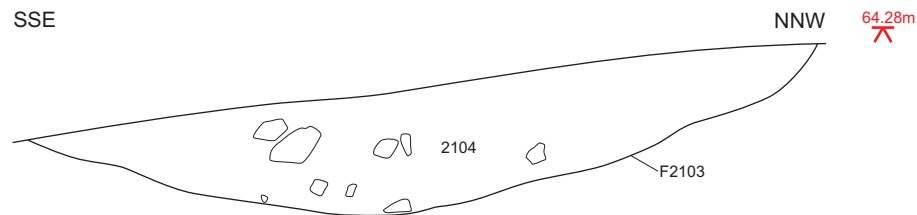
a) Section of Trench 20



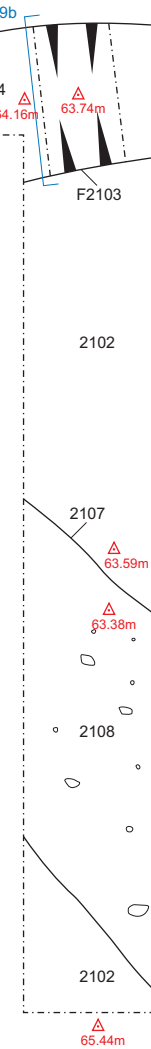
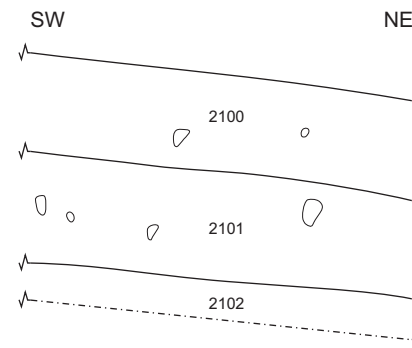
a) Plan of Trench 21



b) Section of F2103



c) Representative section of Trench 21



PROJECT
Higher Woolbrook
(Phase 2)

TITLE

Fig. 9: Trench, 21 plan and sections



Plate 1. General view of the southeast of site, looking northeast

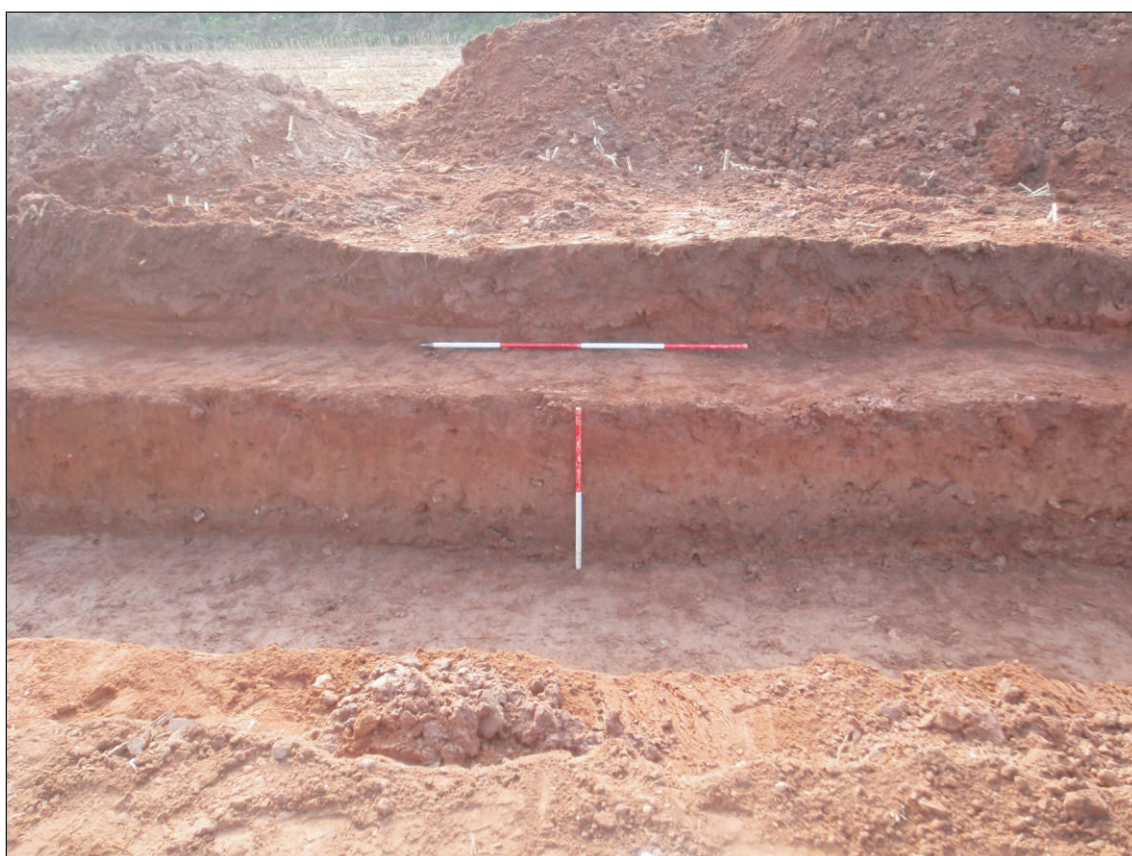


Plate 2. Trench 6, northwest facing representative section, view to southeast (scale 2m and 1m)



Plate 3. Trench 6, southeast facing section including deposit 610, view to northwest (scale 1m)



Plate 4. Trench 9, general view of ditch F903, view to northwest



Plate 5. Trench 19, F1903 east facing section, view to west (scale 1m)



Plate 6. Trench 21, general view including ditch F2103, view to southwest (scale 1m)

Appendix 1:
Descriptions of negative trenches

APPENDIX 1: DESCRIPTIONS OF NEGATIVE TRENCHES

Trench 1			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
100	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
101	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.3-0.6m	Colluvial subsoil		
102	Light brown silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.6m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 2			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
200	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
201	Mid reddish-brown silty-sand	0.3-0.72m	Colluvial subsoil		
202	Light brown silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.72m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 3			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
300	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
301	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.3-0.6m	Colluvial subsoil		
302	Light brown silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.6m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 5			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
500	Mid brown silty-sand	0-0.29m	Ploughsoil		
501	Light red sand	0.29m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 7			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
700	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.28m	Ploughsoil		
701	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.28-0.46m	Subsoil		
702	Light brown silty-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.6m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 8			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
800	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.33m	Ploughsoil		
801	Mid brownish-red silty-sand	0.33-0.78m	Colluvial subsoil		
802	Light reddish-grey clayey-sand with abundant gravel inclusions	0.78m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 11			Length 25m	Width 1.9m	Alignment E-W
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1100	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.24m	Topsoil		
1101	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.24-0.84m	Colluvial subsoil		
1102	Light brownish-red sandy-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.84m+	Natural subsoil		

APPENDIX 1: DESCRIPTIONS OF NEGATIVE TRENCHES

Trench 12			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1200	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
1201	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.3-0.6m	Colluvial subsoil		
1202	Light reddish-brown sandy-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.6m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 13			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1300	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
1301	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.3-0.57m	Colluvial subsoil		
1302	Light brownish-grey clayey-sand with abundant gravel inclusions	0.57m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 16			Length 30m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NE-SW
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1600	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.2m	Topsoil		
1601	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.2-0.6m	Colluvial subsoil		
1602	Light reddish-brown sandy-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.6m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 17			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1700	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.3m	Ploughsoil		
1701	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.3-0.65m	Colluvial subsoil		
1702	Light brown sandy-clay with frequent gravel inclusions	0.65m+	Natural subsoil		

Trench 18			Length 50m	Width 1.9m	Alignment NW-SE
Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation		
1300	Dark brown sandy-loam	0-0.28m	Ploughsoil		
1301	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay	0.28-0.5m	Colluvial subsoil		
1302	Light brownish-grey clayey-sand with abundant gravel inclusions	0.5m+	Natural subsoil		

Appendix 2:
Finds quantifications

APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATIONS (WEIGHT IS IN GRAMS)

Context	Description	Iron	Copper Alloy	Slag		Worked Flint/Chert		Burnt Flint/Chert		Glass		Clay Pipe		Brick		Bronze Age Pottery		Medieval Pottery		Post-medieval Pottery		Animal Bone	
		<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>
1501	Colluvial layer, Trench 15					10	294																
1502	Buried soil horizon, Trench 15					1	82																
1700	Ploughsoil, Trench 17					5	46																
1800	Ploughsoil, Trench 18					1	9																
1900	Ploughsoil, Trench 19					5	113																
1904	Basal fill of ditch F1903					3	430																
1905	Second fill of ditch F1903					12	85																
1907	Upper fill of ditch F1903					13	109																
2000	Ploughsoil, Trench 20					2	12																
2001	Colluvial layer, Trench 20					3	2																
2002	Buried soil horizon, Trench 20					3	45																
2100	Ploughsoil, Trench 21					4	88																
2104	Fill of ditch F2103					3	14															2	22
2106	Fill of ditch F2105					2	14																
Totals		3	1	9	16.5	352	5169	3	19	16	154	1	1	2	523	4	37	1	7	24	229	46	33

Appendix 3:
Catalogue of worked flint/chert

APPENDIX 3: CATALOGUE OF WORKED FLINT/CHERT

Site name: Higher Woolbrook, Sidmouth			Site Code: ACD 264			Sorted by: Julian Richards			Total									
Context	Cores			Flakes			Blades			Burnt	Tools		Chips	Pat	Cond	Rej	Comment	
	Flake	Blade	Frag	Whole	Broken	Ret	Whole	Broken	Ret	Wkd	Scraper	Other						
100				2	3	2								U	F	1	flint	7
100				2	1									U	F		chert	3
200				3		4						1		U	F	1	flint SF borer	8
200					1									U	F		chert	1
300						1								U	F		flint	1
400				3										U	F	1	flint	3
403														U	F	2		0
405														U	F	6		0
500		1		13	4									U	F		flint	18
500				4	2	2								U	F		chert	8
600			2	8	1	3	1							U	F		flint	15
600				4		3					1			U	F		chert SF scraper	8
604		1		18	2	1								U	F	1	flint but with cherty inclusions	22
605		1		4	3				1	2			1	U	F		flint	12
605				2										U	F		Chert – but some variation	2
606		5		36	15		2	2		1			4	U	F	2	flint	65
606		5		34	3			1						U	F		chert	43
700			1	2	2	4								U	F	4	flint	9
700				1			1							U	F		Chert – but some variation	2
800				2										U	F		flint	2
800				1										U	F		chert	1
900				1	2							1		U	F		flint SF scraper	4
900				3										U	F		chert	3
1000	1			5	6	2	3							U	F		flint	17
1000				8								1		U	F		chert SF scraper	9
1001		1		4			1							U	F		chert/flint	6
1200				5	2									U	F		flint	7
1200				1										U	F		chert	1
1300						1								U	F		chert	1
1400				3								1		U	F		flint SF borer	4
1501	1			5	2	1								U	F		flint	9
1501											1			U	F	1	chert SF large scraper	1

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