Land at Broadoak, Clyst Hydon, East Devon, Devon.

A programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

context one
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

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A programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

for

Mr D. Mitchem of Buddleford Estates Ltd.

by

Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.
T: 01963 824696
E: mail@contextone.co.uk
W: www.contextone.co.uk

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COAS project team:
Project Director: Richard McConnell
Fieldwork Manager: Stuart Milby
Post-excavation Manager: Dr Cheryl Green
Fieldwork: Luke Jarvis and Sam Worrall
Report: Orlando Prestidge
Illustration: Tara Fairclough

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Front cover image: The excavation area from the NE. © Context One Archaeological Services 2016

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Non-technical summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation and targeted excavation on land at Broadoak, Clyst Hydon, East Devon, Devon (the 'Site'), over eleven days between 19 May and 12 June 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Mr D Mitchem.

The archaeological works were required in advance of granting planning permission for the development of an on-farm anaerobic digester for renewable energy production. An initial archaeological evaluation through trial trenching was carried out on the Site in 2011 (COAS 2011) and identified previously un-recorded evidence for prehistoric settlement activity, albeit on a modest scale. This comprised two post-holes, a possible post-pit, and a ditch terminus or elongated pit. Pottery and charcoal recovered from the features appeared to date this activity to between the late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British periods. Consequently, two further stages of investigation were required in mitigation of the proposed development. Stage 1 required a second phase of evaluation trenching relating to a new access road, an area that was previously inaccessible. Stage two required a targeted excavation over two of the 2011 evaluation trenches, with the aim of further investigating and interpreting this area of activity.

In conclusion, the excavation area in the centre of the Site revealed a small concentration of archaeological features, with only post-medieval/modern drainage features identified within the evaluation trenches to the north. The excavated features were limited to two ditches and three shallow pits, all within close proximity to the features identified during the evaluation. The finds and archaeobotanical remains place the excavated remains within a late prehistoric/Romano-British agricultural landscape, with evidence of grain and barley production including possible storage and an indication of domestic settlement within the vicinity. Re-dating of the pottery from the evaluation together with radiocarbon dating indicates this activity originated in the Middle Iron Age.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation and targeted excavation on land at Broadoak, Clyst Hydon, East Devon, Devon (the 'Site'), over eleven days between 19 May and 12 June 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Mr David Mitchem of Buddleford Estates Ltd.

1.2 The programme of archaeological works was advised by Mr Stephen Reed (Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (HET)) following a consultation request from the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in advance of granting planning permission for the development of an on-farm anaerobic digester for renewable energy production (East Devon District Council Planning reference: **10/2496/MFUL**). In a brief for the initial archaeological evaluation undertaken in support of a planning application (dated 28 January 2011), Mr Reed stated:

> *"The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential. Aunk is recorded in 1086 in Domesday and is therefore likely to represent a pre-Norman settlement site; below-ground evidence of early settlement and associated field system may survive across the application area. The extant field system around the settlement contains remnants of the, later, medieval fields that can be seen on the late 19th century OS map. In the wider landscape the HER notes the presence of prehistoric settlement and funerary activity and, given the topographic situation of the application area, the presence of prehistoric activity here cannot be discounted. To the east of the application area a Roman coin, along with two post-medieval coins, was found at Ratclyffe and may indicate the presence of Roman activity in the area."*

1.3 The archaeological works were requested by Mr Reed following the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by COAS in 2011. This identified two post-holes, a possible post-pit, and a ditch terminus or elongated pit. Pottery and charcoal recovered from the features appeared to date the activity to between the late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British periods. With this in mind, Mr Reed requested a two stage approach in mitigation of the proposed development. Stage 1 involved a second phase of evaluation trenching in the area of a new access road that had been previously inaccessible. Stage two consisted of a targeted excavation over two of the 2011 evaluation trenches with the aim of further investigating and interpreting this area of activity.

1.4 The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and the *East Devon Local Plan* (Adopted 2006).

1.5 The programme of archaeological works comprised five elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; evaluation; excavation; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition. The WSI was approved by Mr Reed on 10 March 2014 prior to the commencement of any Site works.

2. Site location and topography

2.1 The Site (NGR ST 04722 00190) is situated in the small hamlet of Aunk, *c.* 1.8km south-east of Clyst Hydon in the civil parish of Clyst Hydon, East Devon. The nearest town is Cullompton located *c.* 7.4km to the north-west. The Site is located towards the eastern end of Aunk in a pasture field immediately south of a courtyard setting of farm buildings and *c.* 150m south-east of Broadoak (**Figure 1**). The Site falls from *c.* 50m-48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) from north to south and *c.* 50m-48m aOD from east to west.

2.2 The underlying solid geology comprises the Aylesbeare Mudstone Group and there is no recorded superficial (drift) geology (British Geological Survey website 2016). The soils are characterised by freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).

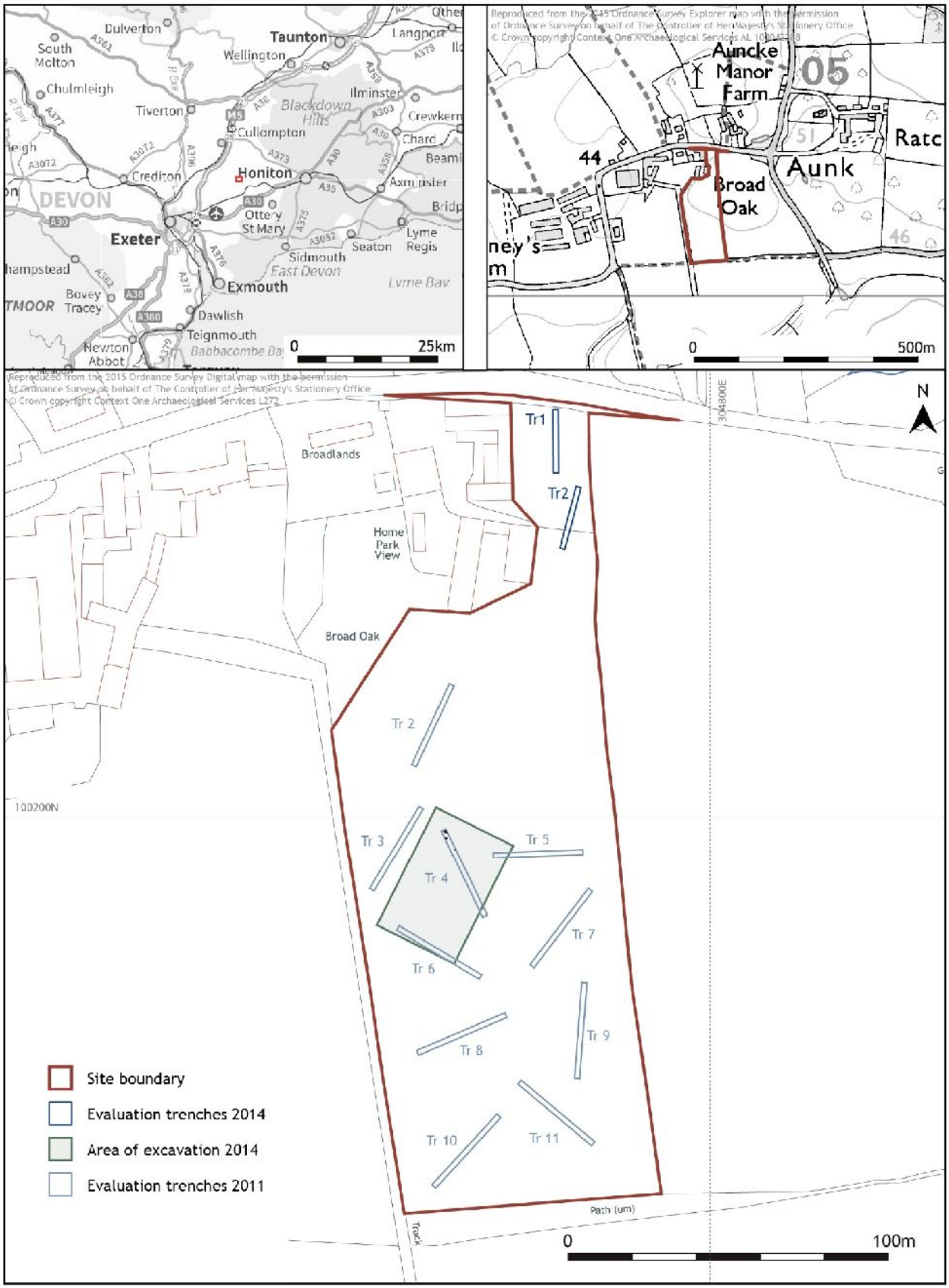

Figure 1. Site setting and location of evaluation trenches and excavation area

3. Historical and archaeological background

3.1 An archaeological desk-based appraisal was carried out prior to the 2011 evaluation to place the Site into its historic and archaeological context and to assist the positioning of field evaluation trenches. The appraisal principally involved a search of the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) for archaeological events within a 500m radius of the Site; a study of historic maps including the Tithe Map and Apportionment from the 1830s/40s and Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century; and aerial photographs held by the Devon County HES.

3.2 The HER comprises five entries for archaeological events within a 500m radius of the Site, spanning the Roman to post-medieval periods (see Fig. 1, McConnell 2011). There are no recorded events for the Site itself although it is likely to fall within the bounds of the settlement of Aunk (HER No. 11454) that was recorded at Domesday. The place name 'Aunk' is postulated to have Celtic roots, and if correct, would place the origins of the settlement at least several centuries earlier. The Domesday Manor of 'heppastebe' was probably situated on the western side of Aunk, at the site now known as Hebstubbs (HER No. 44080). Immediately north of Broadoak is the late 17th century Grade II Listed 'Great aunkle manor and aunkle cottage' (HER No. 18044/59615). Also of post-medieval date is a bee bole structure (HER No. 64618) at Courtney's Farm, *c.* 250m west of Broadoak. In addition, several coins were found *c.* 400m to the east (HER No. 1452/11455), including two Romano-British coins (Gallienus AD 218-268 and Constantine AD 274-337) and two early post-medieval coins.

3.3 The Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation for the area defines the Site as being on the eastern edge of the purported historic core of Aunk. Much of the Site is described as being part of 'Modern enclosures adapting medieval fields' while the northern edge is identified as 'former orchards' that were lost during the 20th century.

3.4 Historic maps from the first half of the 19th century show that the Site formed part of a wider agricultural field system that has changed very little to the present day (see Fig. 1, McConnell 2011). Indeed, the boundaries of the Site itself have remained virtually identical since the early Victorian period and its narrow shape may well reflect a fossilisation of a medieval antecedent. The Tithe map of 1840 represents the Site as comprising three main units annotated as 512, 513 and 516. These are described in the accompanying Tithe Apportionment as 'China Pot Close', 'House Barn Court and Barn', and 'Barton' respectively. These form part of a larger holding owned by 'Lewis Gidley' and tenanted by 'Edward Baker'. China Pot Close was described as 'orchard' and, as such, concurs with both the Historic Landscape Characterisation and map regression analysis which shows this to endure until the late 1950s at least. House Court Barton and Barn, shown as plot 513, is collectively described as 'building' in the Tithe Apportionment but actually relates to farm buildings located towards the road. Plot 516 is described as 'pasture' and reflects a similar use today. The dividing boundary between the orchard and pasture field has persisted since the creation of the Tithe Map. With the exception of a pond that first appeared along this boundary from the early 20th century and has recently been in-filled, and another that briefly appears on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map within the orchard, the Site layout has largely remained unaltered in the last 170 years.

3.5 The archaeological field evaluation carried out by COAS in 2011 (McConnell 2011) revealed previously unrecorded evidence for prehistoric activity on the Site, albeit on a modest scale. This comprised two post-holes, a possible post-pit and a ditch terminus or elongated pit. Several other 'features' were recorded however these were given a low confidence rating in terms of their archaeological character. Dating evidence is meagre, relying on just three sherds of pottery to date two of the four features. For the assessment report, these sherds were ascribed a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (*c.* 100BC to 650BC) date however following re-analysis they are now dated as Middle Iron Age (see section **6**). This is in keeping with the results of radiocarbon dating carried out on two fragments of charcoal which returned a securely Middle Iron Age date. The subsoil in trenches 3, 4 and 5 yielded several pottery sherds initially dated as Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age/ Early Romano-British. These have now been re-dated as Middle Iron Age and Roman-British, the latter indicating a later phase of activity in the area.

4. Methodology

4.1 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), formerly the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (December 2014). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.

4.2 The 2014 works comprised the excavation of two 20m x 1.6m trenches in the north of the Site, and a 30m x 40m open area excavation in the centre of the Site, covering most of the area of Trenches 4 and 6 together with some of Trench 5 from the 2011 evaluation (**Figure 1**).

4.3 All trenches were laid out using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System pre-loaded with Ordnance Survey grid co-ordinates derived from the WSI trench plan.

4.4 A 360 degree tracked machine fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless grading bucket was used for the evaluation and open area excavation work. Machining continued until archaeological features or natural geology was encountered, whichever was first.

4.5 One long face of each evaluation trench was cleaned by hand to define the sequence of deposits. All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. A representative section was then recorded using COAS *pro forma* evaluation trench sheets. A digital photograph was also taken of each section as well as the long axis of each trench. All photographs included an appropriate scale.

4.6 All archaeological remains were sampled by manual excavation to establish stratigraphic relationships, recover sufficient artefacts to establish 'absolute' dates, determine feature/deposit morphology and character, and to recover any palaeoenvironmental indicators.

4.7 All features and associated deposits were drawn in section on dimensionally stable media at a scale of 1:10. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded using a "Harris-Winchester matrix" diagram. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number with their details entered onto separate COAS *pro-forma* context recording sheets.

4.8 All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. Contexts referenced in this report are presented in standard terms, e.g. (100), (203).

4.9 The location, extent and altitude of archaeological features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.

4.10 A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the use of digital images in .JPG format. This included shots of the excavated area, individual features and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.11 Upon completion of the evaluation and excavation, all trenches were backfilled by machine and compacted following approval from Mr Reed (Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council HET). Mr Reed had also carried out a monitoring visit to the Site during the excavation works.

4.12 All finds were removed from Site for processing in preparation for assessment and archiving/discard.

4.13 Prior to assessment, all recovered finds, excluding metalwork, were first washed, air-dried and re-bagged. None of the finds required specialist treatment by a conservator. The finds were then separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and weight in grams. Specialist reports of the artefact assemblages were compiled using both descriptive and tabular formats (see **section 6**).

5. Results

Deposit sequence

5.1 Excavations varied between 0.60m and 0.80m deep and demonstrated a similar deposit sequence across the Site. This comprised a *c.* 0.25m layer of dark brown silt topsoil overlying a 0.30 – 0.40m layer of reddish brown clay silt subsoil. Natural was reached at a depth of 0.60m – 0.70m and comprised a brownish red clay silt.

Archaeological features and deposits

5.2 Evaluation Trench 1 in the north of the Site identified four shallow drainage ditches and two drainage gulleys (**Plate 1**). These were post-medieval or modern in date. Trench 2 was found to be archaeologically sterile (**Plate 2**).

5.3 The excavation identified two boundary or enclosure ditches, three shallow pits and five tree-throws (see **Figure 2**). The two ditches were broadly linear and crossed the full width of the Site. The approximately aligned north-south ditch [303] (**Plates 3** & **4**) cut the approximately aligned east-west ditch [304] (**Plates 5 - 7**), narrowing distinctly at the south and west ends respectively. Ditch [303] measured approximately 0.81m - 1.15m wide and 0.30m - 0.38m deep, while ditch [304] measured 0.70m - 0.79m wide and 0.28m - 0.45m deep. Three slots [305] [329] [339] were excavated across ditch [303] and five slots [308] [323] [326] [332] [343] across ditch [304] however datable finds were only recovered from [303], within the basal fill (306) and upper fill (342). Both ditches had a basal fill (306) (325) and a charcoal-rich upper fill (342) (324), both of which were environmentally sampled (incorporating a dense charcoal patch from [304]) (see section **6.**).

5.4 The pits [312] [315] [317] (**Plates 8 - 10**) were in close proximity to each other and included a pit that had been half-sectioned during the 2011 evaluation [317]. Pit [315] may have either been heavily truncated, or could in fact have represented accumulated subsoil within a natural shallow hollow, the very clean fill perhaps favouring the latter. The pit identified during the evaluation [317] measured *c.* 0.4m diameter by 0.10m deep while the remaining pit [312] measured 0.63m diameter with a maximum depth of 0.20m, and had two fills (313) (314) as opposed to one fill in the other pits. Environmental samples were taken from both features (see section **6.**).

5.5 The five tree-throws [318] [320] [335] [346] [348] were excavated at the southern end of the Site and were characterized by irregular profiles and clean fills.

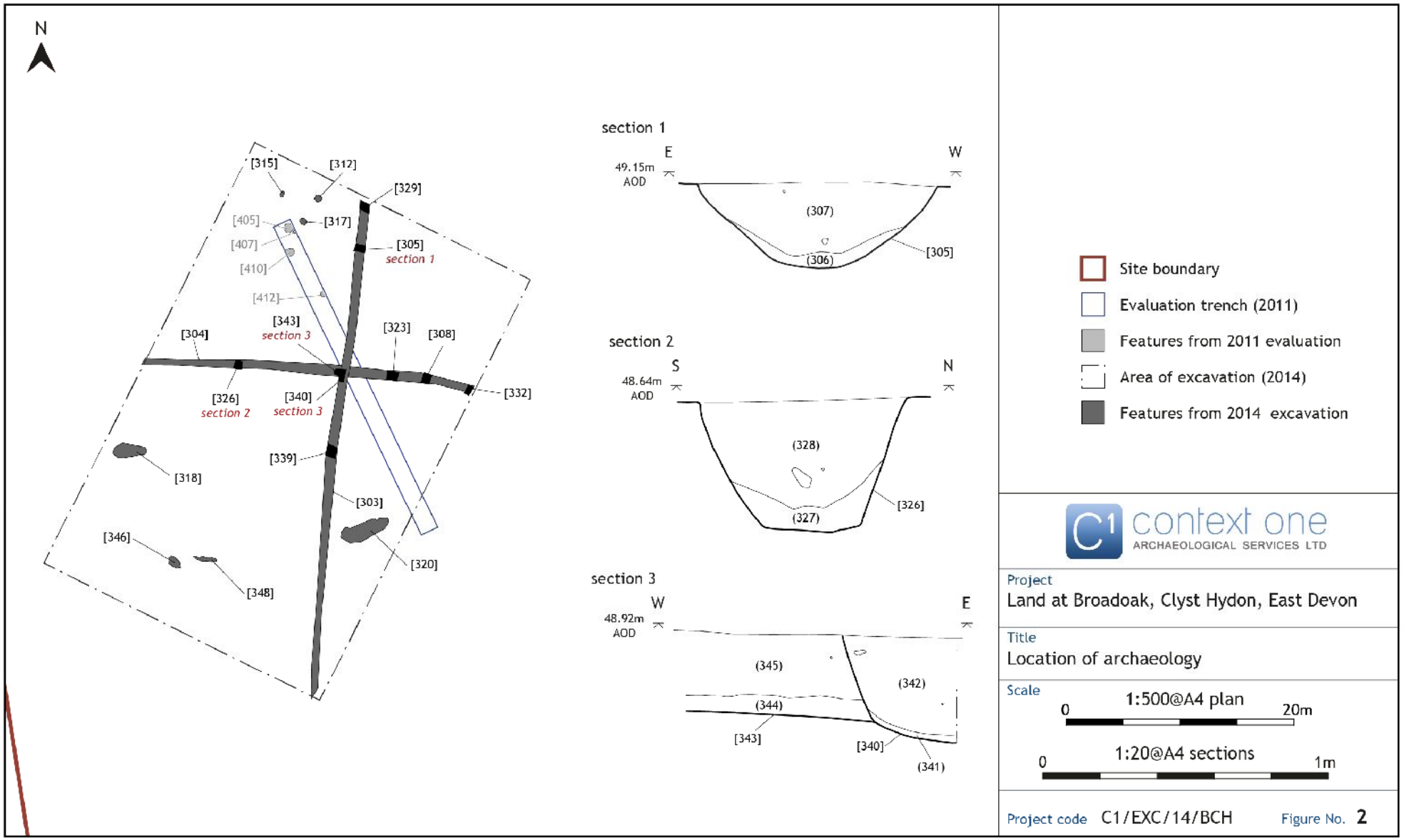

Figure 2. Location of archaeological features and deposits

Plate 1. Evaluation Trench 1 (from S; 2 x 1m scales)

Plate 2. Evaluation Trench 2 (from NW; 2 x 1m scales)

Plate 3. Slot [305] through ditch [303] (from N; 0.5m scale)

Plate 4. Profile of slot [305] (from N; 0.5m scale)

Plate 5. Slots through ditch [304] (from E; 1m scale)

Plate 6. Profile of slot [308] through ditch [304] (from W; 0.5m scale)

Plate 7. Intersection of ditches [303] & [304] (from S; 1m scale)

Plate 8. Pit [312] (from NE; 0.5m scale)

Plate 9. Pit [315] (from NE; 0.5m scale)

Plate 10. Pit [317] (from NE; 0.5m scale)

6. The finds

6.1 A small assemblage of datable finds was recovered during the evaluation and excavation. The majority of these were recovered from the north-south ditch [303] and comprised pottery sherds, charcoal and a small lump of slag from the upper fill. Charcoal was also recovered from the east-west ditch [304] and both ditches had a basal fill and a charcoal-rich upper fill, both of which were environmentally sampled. In addition to the pottery already mentioned, three sherds were also recovered from modern features investigated during the 2014 evaluation. A copper alloy object was also recovered from a modern feature within the evaluation area. Each element of the assemblage is discussed separately below and presented as tabular data with, where appropriate, weight in grams.

Pottery, by Henrietta Quinnell

6.2 (104) fill ditch [103]. Basal sherd 7g, fairly fresh, fabric with common coarse inclusions, most of which are chert which indicates material derived from the Upper Greensand of East Devon. While chert tempered fabrics of medieval date are known, the general character of the sherd suggests a later prehistoric date, although the amount of inclusions has no immediate parallel. Broadly Iron Age sherds with sparser chert inclusions from the Upper Greensand have been found on a number of sites in East Devon (Quinnell 2014). Note that one surface of the sherd has some form of black coating.

6.3 (110) fill gully [109]. Abraded sherd 1g, of a reduced version of the fabric in (104).

6.4 (301) subsoil. Two sherds 5g, abraded South-East Dorset black-burnished ware.

6.5 (306) fill slot [305] through ditch [303]. Out-turned rim sherd 6g, South-East Dorset black-burnished ware, fairly fresh, from vessel of late 3rd or 4th century date, Exeter Type 20 (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, Fig 28).

6.6 (342) upper fill slot [340] through ditch [303]. Body sherd 2g, abraded, fabric contains sparse waterworn inclusions some ferruginous. While the fabric is not very distinctive, it appears in general character to belong with those of broadly Iron Age date in the East Devon area. Material of late Early Iron Age date with a broadly similar character has been published from Hayes farm, Clyst Honiton (Wood 2014).

6.7 (401) subsoil. Four sherds 20g abraded with Upper Greensand Derived inclusions as in (104). One sherd 10g black-burnished ware. One sherd oxidised 6g probably medieval.

6.8 (403) fill post-hole [405]. Two sherds 3g are almost certainly of Ludwell Valley fabric, broadly equivalent to Peacock (1969) Group 5 which sources to the Exeter area and was used for Middle Iron Age South Western Decorated vessels (Quinnell and Farnell forthcoming).

6.9 (409) fill ditch terminus [410]. One sherd as those in (403).

6.10 (501) subsoil. One sherd 4g probably South-East Dorset black-burnished ware.

Context	Details	Upper Greensand Derived	Ludwell Valley	SED black-burnished	Uncertain Iron Age	Totals
104	Fill ditch [103]	1/7				1/7
110	Fill gulley [109]	1/1				1/1
301	Subsoil			2/5		2/5
306	Slot 305 in ditch [303]			1/6		1/6
342	Slot 340 in ditch [303]				1/2	1/2
401	Subsoil	4/20		1/10*		5/30
403	Fill post-hole [405]		2/3			2/3
409	Fill ditch [410]		1/1			1/1
501	Subsoil			1/4		1/4
Totals		6/28	3/4	5/25	1/2	15/59

Table 1. Details of fabrics by sherd number and weight (g). * indicates an additional probable medieval sherd

Comment

6.11 The sherds in Ludwell Valley and Upper Greensand Derived fabrics indicate a probable Middle Iron Age date. The two radiocarbon dates obtained support this: SUERC-47086 2183 +/- 29 BP calibrating to 363 -171 BC (95.4% probability) from (403) and SUERC-47087 2143 +/- 27 BP calibrating to dates between 353 and 60 BC from (602) which contained no ceramics. There are a number of sites of this date around Exeter currently proceeding to publication (Quinnell and Farnell forthcoming). The South East Dorset black-burnished sherds indicate Roman activity, with the sherd from (306) indicating a date late within the Roman period.

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Analysis of the Archaeobotanical Remains by Alys Vaughan-Williams

Introduction

6.12 Seven bulk samples have been analysed in total, and the charcoal has been assessed for radiocarbon dating. The aim of this analysis was to identify (1) the function of the contexts sampled; (2) spatial and temporal variation; (3) evidence relating to the environment; and (4) suitability for radiocarbon dating.

Methods

6.13 The bulk samples were processed by flotation at Context One. The flots were sorted and identifications were made under a low power zoom-stereo microscope. Identifications were made with reference to a personal modern seed reference collection, Capers *et al.* (2006), Berggren (1981) and Anderberg (1994). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). The results are presented in Tables 2-3. The charcoal was examined under an epi-illuminating microscope at magnifications of up to x400. Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990) were consulted to

determine identification

Results

Iron Age

6.14 **Post-hole**

Context 403 from post-hole 405 presented a small charred assemblage with occasional cereal grains including wheat (*Triticum*), a culm node, a large (>2mm) grass seed (Poaceae family) and a small cotyledon from the Fabaceae family.
Context 406 from post-hole 407 contained only occasional charcoal.
Context 411 from post-hole 412 presented a small assemblage of large grass seeds plus occasional cereal grain including barley (*Hordeum*) and wheat.

6.15 **Ditch**

Context 408 from ditch 410 presented a small assemblage with one possible cereal grain (cf. *Cereale* sp.), one curled dock seed (*Rumex crispus*) and one redshank seed (*Persicaria maculosa*).
Context 409 from ditch 410 contained only charcoal.

Romano-British

6.16 **Ditch**

Context 324 from ditch 323 did not contain any archaeobotanical material.
Context 331 from ditch 329 contained two possible grass seeds.

6.17 **Charcoal**

A few fragments of charcoal were recovered from the samples from the 2011 excavations. These were all oak (*Quercus*) with the addition of one fragment of blackthorn (cf. *Prunus spinosa*) in context 408, cut 410.

Interpretation

6.18 The archaeobotanical evidence is typically scarce on prehistoric sites, but fits in with the general picture of both wheat and barley being cultivated. The presence of redshank and curled dock in post-hole 405 suggests damp ground in the vicinity. However, the seeds could have come from a variety of sources including clothing, bedding and thatch, so the proximity is unclear. The small concentration of grass seeds in post-hole 412 are likely to be from general waste on the floor, relating possibly to the fire itself, or again flooring or thatch. If it was a storage pit, it could suggest the remains of a fire used to sterilise the pit in between deposits. The small amount of charcoal is too limited to interpret apart from that it indicates oak woodland as would be expected at this time. Blackthorn would also have been common wild plant with the sloe fruit gathered in autumn.

Discussion and conclusions

6.19 There is too little archaeobotanical material to interpret, however it is comparable to contemporary sites. The charcoal indicates oak and blackthorn were present.

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		Sample	3	4	2	1	5
		Context	403	406	408	409	411
		Stage	405	407	410	410	412
		Feature	PH	PH	Ditch	Ditch	PH
		Date	IA	IA	IA	IA	IA
		Sample vol. (l)					
		Flot vol. (ml)	19	3	9	3	3
Taxa	**Item**	**Common name**					
Persicaria maculosa	seed	Redshank			1		
Rumex crispus	seed	Curled dock			1		
Fabaceae indet.	cotyledon	Pea family	1				
Poaceae indet.	seed	Grass family (>2mm)	1				37
Hordeum sp.	grain	Barley					1
cf. Triticum sp.	grain	Wheat	1				3
cf. Cereale sp.	grain	Cereal indet.			1		
Cereale sp.	grain	Cereal indet.	2				
Triticum sp.	grain	Wheat	1				3
Cereale indet.	culm node		1				

Table 2. 2011 evaluation analysis

		Sample	3	4
		Context	324	331
		Cut	323	329
		Feature	Ditch	Ditch
		Phase	RB	RB
		Sample vol. (l)		
		Flot vol. (ml)	10	5
Taxa	**Item**	**Common name**		
cf. Poaceae sp.	seed	Grass family		2

Table 3. 2014 evaluation and excavation analysis

Metalwork by Jörn Schuster

6.20 Axis bar of a possible terret. Oval-sectioned bar with slightly wider oval/U-shaped ends; both ends with broken surfaces where upper part of the possible terret ring would start. L 20.9mm, W 5.6-5.9mm (outer ends), Diameter 5.1-5.7mm (central bar).

Other finds

6.21 A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from context (108), and a small piece of clinker from context (331).

7. Discussion

7.1 Following on from the modest number of features and deposits recorded on the Site during the 2011 evaluation, archaeological activity from the 2014 works was limited to two ditches and three shallow pits. The north-south orientated ditch has been dated to the later Romano-British period (3rd – 4th century AD) as indicated by a single sherd of black burnished ware in the basal fill. A further pottery fragment recovered from the upper fill is dated as uncertain Iron Age, with material of a broadly similar character having been identified at the site of Hayes farm, in Clyst Honiton, some 9km to the south-west (Hart *et al* 2014). This correlates with pottery recovered from a post-hole and a ditch recovered during the 2011 evaluation, which was identified as almost certainly being of Ludwell Valley fabric, produced in the Exeter area and used for decorated vessels in the Middle to Late Iron Age (see above). A radiocarbon date from the post-hole supports a Middle Iron Age date. Both features were located within the excavation area and immediately west of the north-south ditch. The latter cut the east-west ditch and although no finds were recovered it may relate to an earlier boundary, which potentially might have been contemporary with the Middle Iron Age post-hole and ditch terminus or elongated pit immediately to the north. Despite the recovery of charcoal-rich soils from the ditch, the samples did not contain any charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating. Of the three pits identified during the excavation, all three were undated and may in fact have a natural origin.

7.2 With the exception of possible grass seeds recovered from the north-south ditch, the majority of the archaeobotanical evidence was recovered from the evaluation features within the excavation area. This material suggests the production of wheat and barley, with one pit possibly used for storage. Seeds from a post-hole suggest the presence of damp ground in the vicinity, the seeds possibly deriving from clothing, bedding or thatch. Further archaeobotanical evidence recovered from the nearby ditch terminus or elongated pit reveals the burning of oak and blackthorn wood, placing the Site within a typical prehistoric/early Romano-British landscape of oak woodland.

7.3 The evaluation trenches excavated in the north of the Site only revealed post-medieval/modern drainage ditches and gulleys. Post-medieval pottery was observed within Trench 1 while Trench 2 was found to be archaeologically sterile. The possible axis bar of a terret, a metal loop used on a horse harness, tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/ Romano-British period, was also recovered from a modern feature during these works.

7.4 In conclusion, the evaluation and excavation works have revealed a small concentration of features within the excavation area in the centre of the Site, with only post-medieval/modern drainage features identified within the evaluation trenches to the north. The finds and archaeobotanical remains place the Site within a late prehistoric/ Romano-British agricultural landscape, with evidence of grain and barley production, possible storage capabilities and an indication of domestic settlement within the vicinity.

8. Archive

8.1 An ordered and integrated site archive has been prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001) and *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) / *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

8.2 The project archive is currently held by COAS and consists of the following:

Item	Number	Format
Context sheets	61	Paper
Context summary	1	Paper
Excavation trench sheets	2	Paper

Environmental summary	1	Paper
Graphics register	1	Paper
Photographic register	2	Paper
Drawings	4	Permatrace
Sketch plan	1	Paper
Digital images	157	.JPG

8.3 The paper archive has been scanned as a single file in .PDF format and will form part of the physical Site archive to be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (Museum Accession Number: **RAMM: 11/23**).

8.4 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Devon Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report and the scanned paper archive will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – http://oasis.ac.uk/england/). The OASIS entry (**contexto1-158871**) will also be completed to include details of the archive contents.

8.5 The finds will be retained by COAS until the programme of archaeological work has been completed. The Site landowner will then be contacted with a request to transfer the title of all retained finds to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), Exeter with the option of returning them to him/her as legal owners of the assemblage.

8.6 Should the Site landowner wish to donate the finds to the RAMM and pay for their deposition, a request will be made to the Museum to issue a discard policy on the retained finds. Once a retention strategy has been agreed, all remaining finds will be marked with an accession number (RAMM: 11/23) in preparation for deposition with the museum according to their prevailing Deposit Guidelines.

9. COAS acknowledgements

9.1 We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful completion of this project:

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Mr Stephen Reed, Archaeologist, Devon County Council

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Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
100	Modern	Layer	Top soil. Dark brown silt	-	-	101	-	-	0.25m
101	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Reddish brown clay silt	100	-	103	-	-	c.0.30m
102	-	Layer	Natural. Brownish red silt clay	101	-	-	-	-	-
103	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Drainage ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW with concave sides and a flat base	104	-	102	-	0.80m	0.08m
104	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of [103]. Mid brown soft silt	101	-	103	-	0.80m	0.08m
105	Modern	Cut	Natural hollow filled with degraded brick / tile	106	-	102	0.30m	0.25m	0.20m
106	Modern	Fill	Fill of [105]	101	-	105	0.30m	0.25m	0.20m
107	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Drainage ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW with concave sides and a flat base	108	-	102	-	0.80m	0.32m
108	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of [107]. Mid reddish brown clay silt	101	-	107	-	0.80m	0.32m
109	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Drainage gully. Linear aligned NW-SE with concave sides and base	110	-	102	-	0.38m	0.10m
110	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of [109]. Reddish brown clay silt	101	-	109	-	0.38m	0.10m
111	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Drainage Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW aligned with concave sides and a flat base	112	-	102	-	0.70m	0.08m
112	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of [111]. Mid reddish brown clay silt	101	-	111	-	0.70m	0.08m
113	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Drainage gully. Linear aligned NW-SE with concave sides and base	114	-	102	-	0.30m	0.08m
114	Post	Fill	Fill of [113]. Mid reddish brown clay silt	101	--	113		0.30m	0.08m

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
	Medieval / Modern								
115	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Drainage Ditch. Linear aligned NE-SW with concave edges and a flat base	116	-	102	-	0.65m	0.15m
116	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of [115]. Mid reddish brown clay silt	101	-	115	-	0.65m	0.15m
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown silt		100	201	-	-	0.25m
201	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Reddish brown clay silt	200	101	202	-	-	*c.* 0.35m
202	-	Layer	Natural. Brownish red silt clay	201	102	-	-	-	-
300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown silt		200	301	-	-	*c.* 0.25m
301	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Reddish brown clay silt	300	201	302	-	-	*c.* 0.35m
302	?Prehistoric	Layer	Lower subsoil. Red clay	301	202		-	-	-
303	Romano-British	Cut	Overall number for boundary/enclosure ditch. Aligned N-S with straight sides and a concave base	301	-	304	*c.* 42m	0.81m-1.15m	0.30m-0.38m
304	Prehistoric	Cut	Overall number for enclosure ditch. Aligned E-W with concave sides and a flat base	303	-	302	*c.* 28m	0.70m-0.79m	0.28m-0.45m
305	N/A	Cut	Cut of slot through ditch [303]	306	-	302	-	0.83m	0.29m
306	Romano-British	Fill	Fill of [305]. Mid brownish red silt	307	-	305	-	0.62m	0.06m
307	Romano-British	Fill	Fill of [305]. Light brown silt	301	-	306	-	0.83m	0.23m
308	N/A	Cut	Cut of slot through ditch [304]	309	-	302	-	0.79m	0.45m
309	Prehistoric	Fill	Fill of [308]. Mid brownish red silt	310	-	308	-	0.48m	0.14m
310	Prehistoric	Fill	Fill of [308]. Brownish grey clay silt	311	-	309	-	0.25m	0.13m
311	Prehistoric	Fill	Fill of [308]. Light red silty clay	301	-	310	-	0.79m	0.31m
312	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Cut of straight-sided circular pit with a flat base. Probable rubbish pit	313	-	302	-	0.63m	0.20m
313	Post Medieval /	Fill	Lower fill of pit [312]. Brownish red clay silt	314	-	312	-	0.40m	0.18m

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
	Modern								
314	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Upper fill of pit [312]. Reddish brown silt	301	-	313	-	0.35m	0.18m
315	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Cut of truncated pit/natural hollow. Circular with straight sides and a flat base	316	-	302	-	0.56m	0.08m
316	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of truncated pit/natural hollow [315]. Light reddish brown clay silt	301	-	315	-	0.56m	0.08m
317	Post Medieval / Modern	Cut	Cut of straight-sided circular pit within evaluation trench. Probable rubbish pit	322	-	302	-	*c.* 0.40m	0.10m
318	N/A	Cut	Straight-sided irregular disturbance. Tree-throw	319	-	302	3.1m	1.0m	*c.* 0.31m
319	N/A	Fill	Fill of tree-throw [318]. Light yellowish grey silt and clay	301	-	318	3.1m	1.0m	*c.* 0.31m
320	N/A	Cut	Straight-sided irregular disturbance. Tree-throw	321	-	302	*c.* 4.3m	1.3m	*c.* 0.44m
321	N/A	Fill	Fill of tree-throw [320]. Light yellowish grey silt and clay	301	-	320	*c.* 4.3m	1.3m	*c.* 0.44m
322	Post Medieval / Modern	Fill	Fill of pit [317]. Mid brown silt	301	-	317	-	0.40m	0.10m
323	N/A	Cut	Cut of slot through ditch [304]	325	-	302	-	0.80m	0.30m
324	Prehistoric	Fill	Upper fill of [323]. Light yellowish grey slightly silty clay	301	-	325	-	-	0.20m
325	Prehistoric	Fill	Lower fill of [323]. Mottled mid red and grey slightly silty clay	324	-	323	-	-	0.15m
326	N/A	Cut	Cut of slot through ditch [304]	327	-	302	-	0.70m	0.45m
327	Prehistoric	Fill	Lower fill of [326]. Brownish red clay silt	328	-	326	-	0.50m	0.15m
328	Prehistoric	Fill	Upper fill of [326]. Light yellowish grey silty clay	301	-	327	-	0.69m	0.38m
329	N/A	Cut	Cut of slot through ditch [303]	330	-	302	-	*c.* 1.2m	0.38m
330	Romano-British	Fill	Lower fill of [329]. Mottled greyish red clay silt sand	331	-	329	-	-	0.20m
331	Romano-British	Fill	Upper fill of [329]. Mid-light yellow grey slightly silty clay	301	-	330	-	-	0.18m
332	N/A	Cut	Cut of bulk slot at eastern end of ditch [304]	333	-	302	-	0.72m	0.30m

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/ DIAMETER	THICKNESS/ DEPTH
333	Prehistoric	Fill	Lower fill of [332]. Brownish red silty clay	334		332	-	0.60m	0.12m
334	Prehistoric	Fill	Upper fill of [332]. Light yellowish grey silty clay	301	-	333	-	*c.* 0.74m	0.25m
335	N/A	Cut	Irregular sided disturbance. Tree-throw	336	-	302	*c.* 1.9m	*c.* 0.3m	*c.* 0.16m
336	N/A	Fill	Fill of tree-throw [335]. Light grey clay	301	-	335	-	-	*c.* 0.16m
337	Romano-British	Fill	Fill of slot [339]. Mid orangey brown silty clay	301	-	338	-	0.80m	0.23m
338	Romano-British	Fill	Fill of slot [339]. Mid reddish brown silty clay	337	-	339	-	0.58m	0.23m
339	N/A	Cut	Slot through ditch [303]	338	-	302	-	0.80m	0.31m
340	N/A	Cut	Cut of quadrant slot through ditch [303]	341	-	345	-	-	0.37m
341	Romano-British	Fill	Lower fill of slot [340]. Brown silty clay	342	-	340	-	-	0.03m
342	Romano-British	Fill	Upper fill of slot [340]. Mid brown silt	301	-	341	-	-	0.34m
343	N/A	Cut	Cut of quadrant slot through ditch [304]	344	-	302	-	-	0.28m
344	Prehistoric	Fill	Fill of slot [343]. Brownish red silty clay	345	-	343	-	-	0.12m
345	Prehistoric	Fill	Fill of slot [343]. Light yellowish grey silty clay	340	-	344	-	-	0.22m
346	N/A	Cut	Irregular sided disturbance. Tree-throw	347	-	302	*c.* 1.2m	*c.* 0.6m	*c.* 0.23m
347	N/A	Fill	Fill of tree-throw [346]. Light grey clay silt sand	301	-	346	-	-	*c.* 0.23m
348	N/A	Cut	Irregular sided disturbance. Tree-throw	349	-	302	*c.* 1.9m	c. 0.45m	*c.* 0.18m
349	N/A	Fill	Fill of tree-throw [348]. Light grey clay silt	301	-	348	-	-	*c.* 0.18