



OAKFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

**Archaeological Excavation on land at
North Hall Manor,
Widcombe-in-the-Moor,
Devon**



on behalf of
**Margaret Rogers and Michael Lamb
Glebe Farm Partnership**

Report No. 17-04

Project No. 1317

March 2017



OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

44 Hazel Road,
Wonford
Exeter,
Devon
EX2 6HN
tel: 07834 591406
e-mail: info@oakfordarch.co.uk
web: www.oakfordarch.co.uk

AUTHOR

MFR Steinmetzer

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

John Allan and Imogen Woods

Report No 17-04

Revision: 01
Date: February 2017

Contents

Summary

1 Introduction	1
1.1 The site	1
1.2. Objectives and aims of the excavations	1
2. Historical background	2
3. Methodology	4
4. Results	5
4.1 Trench 1	5
4.2 Trench 2	5
4.3 Trench 3	6
4.4 Trench 4	7
4.5 Trench 5	8
4.6 Trench 6	9
4.7 Trench 7	9
4.8 Trench 8	10
4.9 Trench 9	10
5. The Finds	12
5.1 Introduction	12
5.2 Lithics	12
5.3 Medieval pottery	12
5.4 Post-medieval pottery	14
5.5 Glass	15
5.6 Clay pipe	15
5.7 Roofing slate	15
5.8 Metal	15
5.9 Conclusion	16
6. Discussion	17
7. Conclusions	18
8. Project Archive	19

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendix 1: Context descriptions by trench

Appendix 2: Finds quantification

Appendix 3: Method statement

List of illustrations

- Fig. 1 Location of site.
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan and summary results of geophysics.
- Fig. 3 Detail from the 1844 Widecombe Tithe map.
- Fig. 4 Detail from the 1st edition 1886 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.14.
- Fig. 5 Detail from the 2nd edition 1905 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.14.
- Fig. 6 Detail from a RAF vertical aerial photograph taken in December 1946.
- Fig. 7 Detail from the 1954 Ordnance Survey map.
- Fig. 8 Conservation Area showing location of site.
- Fig. 9 Plans and sections Trench 1.
- Fig. 10 Plan Trench 2.
- Fig. 11 Plans and section Trench 3.
- Fig. 12 Plan and sections Trench 4.
- Fig. 13 Section Trench 5.
- Fig. 14 Plan Trench 7.

Fig. 15 Plan and sections Trench 8.

Fig. 16 Plan and sections Trench 9.

Fig. 17 Trench plan showing principal features identified.

Fig. 18 Suggested location of outer curia/barton, fishponds and glebe.

List of plates

Plate 1 General view of Trench 8 showing suggested layout of east-west range (right), chamber with fireplace (bottom left) and external courtyard (top left). 2m scales. Looking west.

Plate 2 General view of Trench 8 showing suggested layout of east-west range (left), chamber with fireplace (top right) and external courtyard (front right). 2m scales. Looking west.

Plate 3 General view of Trench 9 showing building 1. 2m scales. Looking northeast.

Plate 4 General view of Trench 9 showing building 2. 2m scales. Looking northwest.

Plate 5 Section through post-trench [934] and later disturbance [936]. 1m scale. Looking northeast.

Plate 6 Section through post-trench [902] and posthole [926]. 0.5m scale. Looking north.

Plate 7 Section through posthole [922] and post-trench [928]. 0.5m scale. Looking south.

Plate 8 Section through posthole [918]. 0.5m scale. Looking south.

Plate 9 Section through posthole [930]. 0.25m scale. Looking northeast.

Summary

This report records the excavations undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between 2012 and 2016 of the moated manor house at North Hall which had been completely lost to view for the last 300 years and which was formerly the centre and origin of the village of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon (SX 7184 7690). The work was part of a broader multi-season programme of activities encompassing research, training, public archaeology and education activities that commenced in 2012. The site work comprised the hand-excavation of nine trenches totalling 167.45m in length and 1-6.85m wide.

Trenches 2, 4, 6 and 8 exposed the remains of a substantial, though heavily robbed, stone building and were designed to provide further insight into the distribution and layout of the building or buildings and their relationship with the moat and defences. Trenches 3 and 5 provided complete cross-section across the earthen defences along the inner edge of the moat where they were best preserved, while Trench 7 targeted anomalies identified in the field to the north of the site.

The work in Trench 8 exposed further remains of a heavily robbed stone building range. Previously identified in Trench 4 in 2015 the work recovered the ground-plan of a small room with a large fireplace in the west elevation and located immediately to the north of a large east-west aligned building range. Two distinct cobbled surfaces were identified within this range, while a coarser cobbled surface in the northeast corner of Trench 8 contained a large number of horseshoe nails suggesting an external yard. It is likely that the site was comprehensively robbed from the mid-17th century onwards.

Evidence from Trench 9 suggests that there are at least two phases of timber buildings in the northern area of the site. A single sherd of Upper Greensand derived coarseware dating to the mid-10th-early 13th century was recovered from the early timber building in Trench 9, while a further 15 sherds of 14th-15th century coarsewares were recovered from a later timber building in Trench 9.

Excavations at the western end of the site revealed at least two phases of earthen bank, with a small ditch and earth bank being superseded by the substantial moat visible today and a larger bank. No finds have been recovered from these.

The finds recovered from the site contained a small quantity of mid-10th - early 13th century pottery, while large quantities of medieval coarsewares, dating to the 13th-15th century were recovered, including two sherds of Valencian lustreware, a 15th century high status import from western Spain, and 8 sherds of Saintonge pottery from South-West France. By the early post-medieval period the assemblage is dominated by local coarsewares from North Devon, while Low Country stonewares and tin-glazed pottery has also been recovered. By the mid-17th century these are replaced by large quantities of English wares.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the third season of excavations in 2016 on land owned by The Glebe Farm Partnership at North Hall, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon (SX 7184 7690). The excavation was part of a multi-season campaign of community excavations devised and initiated by the Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) and both the DNPA and Oakford Archaeology (OA) provided excavation staff and post-excavation services. The project was funded through the DNPA Moor than meets the eye scheme.

1.1 The site

Located to the north of the church of St Pancras and the village green, the site (Fig. 1) is defined by a large infilled moat and earthen bank with a 'raised' central platform. The site is located at a height of approximately 240m AOD. The underlying solid geology consists of granite laid down in the carboniferous period, and overlain by clay, silts and peat deposits (BGS Sheet 326).

The site was discovered as a result of extensive documentary research carried out by Peter Rennells and the Widecombe History Group being reported to the DNPA. An initial geophysical survey was carried out by Dr Penny Cunningham (University of Exeter), with a further survey (resistivity) undertaken by Substrata in 2011. Evidence for a possible medieval building and associated moat were recorded on the main site, while a large concentration of linear and other anomaly patterns was identified in the field to the north of the site. The interpretation of the survey is shown on Fig. 2.

Under the direction of the Dartmoor National Park Authority it was decided in 2012 to excavate a preliminary series of targeted trenches (Trench 1-3) to establish the nature and survival of the archaeological remains. The trenching established that the site contained remnants of earthen defences enclosing a heavily robbed stone building. In addition, 62 sherds of medieval coarsewares, dating to the 13th-15th century were recovered, as well as two sherds of 'Valencian Lustre Ware', a high status, good quality pottery from western Spain. This seemed to confirm that the site was the location of the 'lost' manor of Widecombe.

The 2015 season expanded on the work undertaken in 2012 and a further four trenches were excavated (Trench 4-7). These provided further insight into the multi-phase defences surrounding the site and the nature and phasing of the buildings present within the defensive circuit. The 2015 season also included the reopening of a trench in the field to the north of the site which was meant to have been investigated in 2012 but had to be abandoned following severe weather. Excavation revealed the total absence of medieval or earlier activity and identified instead the presence of a substantial palaeochannel at the northern end.

In light of these findings it was decided to focus on two large open areas (Trench 8-9) in 2016. These would further help with understanding the timber buildings along the northern circuit and recover the plan of the stone building identified at the centre of the site

1.2. Objectives and aims of the excavations

The objectives of the project are to recover the ground plan and building sequence of the moated manor and to ascertain the presence or absence of an early 13th century timber phase. Trial trenching has established the presence of a moat marking the northwest and southwest limit of the complex and further work will need to be undertaken to establish the remaining circuit of the inner court, the location of the inner gatehouse and the presence of any

structures within the outer curia and barton, either through further excavation and/or geophysical surveys.

The aims of the excavations are:

- To address a set of research driven objectives concerned with enhancing our knowledge of the site during the medieval and later periods and its hinterland;
- To provide a properly managed training excavation open to the local community, archaeology students and interested amateurs, both local and international;
- To provide an opportunity for community archaeology through excavation, organised site tours, talks and educational activities for local children.

The aims of the post-excavation work will be:

- To integrate all phases of work and re-assess the dating of the stratigraphic sequence, with specific reference to the pottery;
- The structures and features identified at North Hall will have to be placed in their archaeological and architectural context, where possible, by comparing them to contemporary castle, palace and manorial structures in plan, elevation and architectural detail;
- To examine the historical context for the construction and development of the manor house at North Hall and the later post-medieval development of the site;
- To assess the significance of North Hall as a manorial estate centre at Widecombe;
- Reassess the pottery for the light it might shed on the supply of ceramics in medieval Devon, with particular reference to comparison with Exeter;
- To examine the status and economy of the site in light of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence in comparison with other sites in the region and beyond.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There is evidence for prehistoric settlement dating back to the second millennium BC on the moorland heights and lower slopes surrounding Widecombe-in-the-Moor. However, little is known of settlement activity and land use in the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval periods. This may simply reflect a recent bias in the archaeological record, with greater emphasis on development in urban areas. With regards to the early medieval period this may also reflect the misinterpretation or lack of pottery industry prior to the late Saxon period, and the differential survival of artefacts such as leather and wood, rather than a genuine absence in the archaeological record. Excavations undertaken in the 1960's at South Rowden or Hutholes exposed six buildings and three crofts and suggest that the site was in occupation from the early 9th century AD and not finally abandoned until the 13th-14th century.¹

During the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest and recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 the manors of *spicewite* (Spitchwick), *bechedona* (Blagdon Pipard) and *notesworde* (Natsworthy) are recorded.² No mention is made of Widecombe suggesting the settlement was founded at a later date.

¹ Henderson et al. 1994, Gent 2007.

² French 1963, French et al. 1963.

It is likely that the original settlement grew up around the parish church, where four routeways converged. These roads still converge today on a triangular site to the west of the church. The village does not display signs of a planned layout with ‘burgage’ plots, but rather reflects the strong influence of the road system with most of the buildings strung out along the length of the main roads.

The earliest Lords known to have occupied Widecombe manor were the Fitz-Ralphs. The family is thought to have held the manor from c. 1216, although the early beginnings of the family are unclear. It is possible that they were related to the Rous family of Little Modbury in South Devon.³ Radulph le Rous or Rufus was a knight in service to William I, and following the Conquest likely received land in recognition of his service. It is unclear if these initial grants were located in Devon but by the end of the 11th century Radulph was wealthy enough to contemplate marrying his son and heir, Radulph, to the daughter of Ascelin de Yvery, a powerful baron during the reign of William Rufus and Henry I. Their son, William, became one of the Justices itinerant of the counties of Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devonshire and Cornwall under Henry II and Sheriff of Devonshire during the latter part of Henry’s reign and his son and grandson prospered under Henry III.⁴

During the medieval period the nobility and the church formed the twin pillars of feudal society. It is perhaps not surprising that the manor house and the church lie directly opposite each other at the heart of the village. The presence of a church is attested as early as 1260 in Bishop Bronescombe *Ordinacio de Lideford*, while another document dated to the same year confirms that a large portion of the forest of Dartmoor extending beyond Two Bridges was attached for ecclesiastical purposes to the parish of Widecombe.⁵

In 1285 King Edward I licensed Serlo de Lanladron to assign the church of Widecombe to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral, and an early 14th century copy of this deed in the Exeter Cathedral archives describes that Ralph, son of Sir Ralph le Rous of Little Modbury, sold to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter an acre of land at *Wydecomb* with the advowson of the church of St Pancras and the chapel of St Leonard at *Spikewyk*. The parcel of land is described as lying adjacent to the mother church of the parish and as lying in *Wodehaye* hard by the sanctuary of the church.⁶

The church is mentioned again in a roll of the visitation in 1313 of Richard de Morcestria and Thomas de Stapledon, and in an ordinance by Bishop Stapledon in 1315.⁷

The present church was built in the early 15th century either on or near the site of the earlier building and meant that John Shillingford, Canon of Exeter, was able to request in his will in 1406 that he be buried in St Catherine’s Chapel in the new church ‘near my honoured mother’. The tower was added later, probably towards the end of the 15th or early 16th century.

By 1283 the manor had passed to the Shillingford family. They had held the manor since the reign of Henry I and had long played a part in the affairs of the city of Exeter; Ralph Shillingford was recorder of Exeter in the 1350s, having represented Devon in Parliament in

³ Betham 1805, Gilbert 1817, Westcote 1845.

⁴ Westcote 1845.

⁵ Dymond 1876.

⁶ Dymond 1876.

⁷ Dymond 1876.

1343, and John (d.1406) and his brother Baldwin (d.1417/18) were both canons of the cathedral. Baldwin's son John was MP for Exeter and Mayor five times before inheriting the family estates in Shillingford, 'Stapilhull' and Farringdon, along with the advowsons of Shillingford and St. Mary Steps, Exeter in the 1430s. They had passed to him from his 'cosyn' William, with whom he had shared a quarter of a knight's fee in Widecombe-in-the-Moor in 1428.⁸

By the 1460s the estate had passed to his son William who held them until 1482 when he sold the manors of Shillingford, Widecombe and Farringdon to Lord Huddersfield, Attorney General to Edward IV. Upon the death of Lord Huddersfield in 1499 the estate passed first to the Carews and then, following the Dissolution, to the Southcote family.⁹

A 19th century antiquarian book provides a brief description of the site in the mid-16th century as given by Robert Prideaux, a lawyer from Ashburton. *'It was not a castle, but a massive stone house around a paved courtyard; outside were herbgardens, farm buildings and an orchard, all encircled by a broad moat of water crossed by a drawbridge opposite the large porch which served for a gateway. On the left of the building was the common room or large hall, which occupied almost one side of the mansion. [...] At one end was a very large fireplace and at the other a gallery reached by a flight of stairs in the corner and communicating with the room over the gateway [...] there were stables [...] ranges of tumbledown building's in which numbers of men could live, store houses for corn, and cellars for beer, cyder or wine [...] then beyond the kitchen were rooms with great wooden vats and stone troughs for salting and storing meat [...].'*¹⁰ However, no sources are mentioned and it is unclear how much of the account has been made up for the sake of the story.

The 15th and 16th centuries saw the expansion of Widecombe. The wealth generated by tin mining provided the impetus for this growth and this was augmented by profits made from the woollen industry. By 1725 there was a cloth weaving boom and eight mills operating in Widecombe. As the tin industry declined so did the population, and in the following centuries Widecombe remained a small centre serving a very large but sparsely settled agricultural parish – very much sustained by the trade in wool that continued to thrive well into the 18th century.¹¹

From 1626 the property was leased to the Andrews family, included in the lease was '*a mansion, a barton, three grist mills and a supply of clean water*'. Several further leases dating from the late 17th to the early 19th century suggest that the moats surrounding the site were by that point part of a system of ponds and leats serving two mills. These were North Hall Mill and Smitha Mill, the latter probably occupying the site where Old Mill House was built between 1886 and 1905. Schoolmaster Richard Hill wrote in 1688 of the remains of a stately house, buildings and cottages, surrounded by a moat of standing water. The water was fed by streams of clear water, and a good store of fish was bred in these.

In 1703 the Wootons had become the new owners of the manor, and by 1769 the estate had been leased to John Dunning, later Lord Ashburton. It seems likely, however, that the building was by then in a state of serious disrepair, for in 1803 a visiting botanist noted Valerian growing from the ruins, while in 1880 an excursion to view 'the ruins of North Hall'

⁸ Roskell 1993.

⁹ Westcote 1845.

¹⁰ Amery 1891.

¹¹ Conservation Area Conservation Area Character Appraisal 2011.

was reported in the *Daily Western Times*. The lease was purchased by Mrs Caroline Drake in 1845, the land being subsequently let to a number of different local landowners.

Nothing much is known about the site and its development throughout this period. An 18th estate plan shows three small parallel buildings in the centre of the site, with a larger structure to the east, although because the site is not shown in great detail the nature of the activities taking place in these buildings is not known.

By 1844 the Widecombe tithe map (Fig. 3) shows that two of the smaller buildings have disappeared and only the northern and eastern buildings surviving. The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1886, when the site was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 4). The northern building had been demolished and only the eastern building remained. No alterations are shown on the 1905 2nd edition Ordnance survey map and the site remained unchanged until the 1950's when the current buildings are shown.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work comprised the hand excavation of 9 trenches totalling 167.45m in length, with each trench 1-6.85m wide. Trenches 1-3 and 7 were positioned to target anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, while Trenches 4-6 and 8-9 were positioned to further investigate features identified in 2012. The position of all trenches were agreed with the Dartmoor National Park Authority Archaeologist prior to commencement on site. The positions of the trenches as excavated are shown on Fig. 2.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed black and white print and colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. RESULTS

A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of agricultural topsoil onto weathered natural subsoil was encountered in all areas. The depth of the overlying deposits ranged from 0.2-0.75m. Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs 9-15 and context descriptions for each trench are set out in Appendix 1.

4.1 Trench 1 (Detailed plans and sections Fig. 9)

This trench measured 32.6m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. It was sited to investigate a number of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and interpreted as a possible building and associated demolition deposits. A single linear feature (107), a large pit (101) and an extensive demolition deposit (103) were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 1, Appendix 1.

The earliest feature identified was a single, large pit (101) exposed at the centre of the trench, underneath demolition deposit 103. This measured 1.1m in diameter and 0.4m deep, had sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (102). This consisted of a uniform dark brown silty clay based deposit.

The building identified by the geophysical survey in the centre and southern end of the trench was not uncovered; instead it is likely that the geophysical survey picked up the granite bedrock located in this position. However, an extensive deposit of granite building rubble (103) was uncovered in the centre and northern end of the trench. Although no structural elements of a potential building were identified this deposit has been interpreted as robbing. The deposit contained 2 sherds of 13th-14th century and 3 sherds of later 15th-16th century pottery.

A large linear 107 was exposed at the northern end of the trench. Aligned broadly E-W it measured 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. It contained a single mid to dark reddish brown silty clay based fill (108) similar to the overlying topsoil. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. In light of evidence uncovered in 2015 this is interpreted as a continuation of the early ditch identified in trenches 3, 4 and 5. Immediately to the north of this feature were the backfilled remains of the moat (105-106). This was not investigated.

4.2 **Trench 2** (Detailed plans and section Fig. 10)

This trench measured 13.4m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately E-W and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The trench was sited to investigate the remains of a possible medieval building identified by the geophysical survey. Archaeological features identified included building remains, represented by a N-S aligned wall foundation (201) at the western end of the trench, and extensive demolition deposits (202 and 203). Natural subsoil (200) was encountered at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 1.

The building identified by the geophysical survey was not uncovered in the trench; instead it is likely that the geophysical survey picked up the granite bedrock located in this position. At the western end of the trench a N-S aligned wall foundation (201) was uncovered. Built of roughly squared granite rubble, only the very lowest foundation course survived. This was sat directly on top of the natural subsoil and was approximately 1m wide and 0.2m high. Due to the limited exposure it was not possible to recover the plan of the structure. An extensive deposit of granite building rubble (202 and 203) was uncovered on either side of the wall. The topsoil (204) contained 19 sherds of 13th-15th century, and 209 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

4.3 **Trench 3** (Detailed plans and section Fig. 11)

This trench measured 8m x 1.2m, was orientated NW-SE, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m. It was sited to investigate an extensive earthwork at the rear of the moat-potentially an earthen bank. A small bank (303) and associated ditch (302) were exposed. These were superseded by a larger bank (307-8) and beam slot (309). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 3, Appendix 1.

Immediately on top of the natural subsoil beneath the centre of the bank was a 0.10m thick preserved soil horizon (301) predating the banks construction. This consisted of a mid-brown silty clay although due to heavy root disturbance no soil samples were taken. On the surface of this was a small earth bank (303), sealed underneath a more substantial later bank (307-8). This was broadly aligned NE-SW before curving to the S and SE; it measured 2.15m wide and 0.5m high. It was composed of a single mid yellow-brown loamy clay deposit and no dating material was recovered. Immediately to the north-west were the partially excavated remains of an infilled ditch (302) contemporary with bank 303. This was deliberately

backfilled with deposits (304-6) excavated from the later moat (318). The lower fill (304) consisted of mid-grey-brown clay with occasional sub-angular gravel, while the overlying deposit (305) consisted of light yellow clay with frequent gravel. The upper deposit (306) comprised light to mid-yellow-grey clay with occasional gravel. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

Following the infilling of the earlier ditch a new bank was constructed with the up-cast from the moat. This was composed of two deposits; the lower deposit (307) was composed of mid-brown silty loam with occasional sub-angular gravel, while the upper deposit (308) comprised light yellow-brown silty loam with frequent sub-angular gravel. No finds were recovered from these deposits. At the rear of the bank was a shallow linear (309). It measured approximately 0.8m wide and 0.36m deep, with a steep-sided and flat-based profile, and contained a single, mid reddish brown loamy clay fill (310) from which five sherds of 13th-14th century pottery was recovered.

An auger survey was undertaken in 2012 in the centre of the moat immediately opposite Trench 3. The results showed that the upper 0.4m consisted of modern disturbed deposits (317). Immediately underneath was a 0.75m thick, very clean dark orange silty loam (316), which was in turn overlying a 0.75m thick light to mid-grey clay containing fine gravels and grits (315). Underneath this deposit was a 0.85m thick mid grey clay (314), which in turn sealed a mid to dark grey clay (313). The survey did not encounter deposits consistent with the base of the moat.

4.4 **Trench 4** (Detailed plans and section Fig. 12)

This trench measured 43m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. It was sited to investigate the wall identified in Trench 2 and to provide a complete cross-section through the moat. The trench exposed building remains (403) and extensive demolition deposits (402) and (434). In addition, two post trenches (414 and 417), five postholes (404, 406, 408, 410 and 412), a single linear feature (419), a small ditch (421) and a large wet ditch (425) were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 4, Appendix 1.

Because of extensive later truncation no evidence of the earthen banks survives in this area of the site. However, a small, approximately NE-SW aligned linear (421) is likely to represent the ditch identified in trenches 1, 3 and 5. The ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.75m deep, with gradually breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fills (422, 423 and 424). These consisted of mid-reddish brown silty loam based deposit.

Immediately to the north of this feature was the moat (425). Aligned broadly NE-SW it measured 9.9m wide with gradually breaking sides. It was excavated to a depth of 2.1m, however, due to the depth the feature was not fully excavated. No finds were recovered from its fills (426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432 and 433). The lower fills (426-429) consisted of dark grey silty clay based deposit, while the upper deposits consisted of mid to dark brownish grey silty loam, similar to the overlying topsoil.

A large linear (419) was exposed immediately south of ditch (421). Aligned broadly N-S it measured 5.3m long, 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. It contained a single dark reddish brown silty clay based fill (420) similar to the overlying topsoil. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

At the rear of inferred line of the bank were two parallel NE-SW aligned linears (414 and 417). Feature 414 was a probable post trenches, was 0.85m wide and 0.14m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fill (415). This consisted of dark reddish brown silty loam. Feature 417 was a probable post trench, was 1.2m wide and 0.21m deep, with fairly steeply sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its fill (418). This consisted of dark reddish brown silty loam. This feature probably continues into Trench 3 and 5. Located between the two linears were two postholes (410 and 412). Posthole 410 measured 0.34m in diameter and 0.2m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (411). Feature 412 was a small circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a diameter of approximately 0.4m and was 0.17m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (413). It is possible that the two linears and postholes may correspond with elements of a timber-framed building set against the earth bank.

The earliest feature identified at the southern end of Trench 4 was a single, small posthole (404) exposed at the western end of the trench underneath the putative line of wall (403). This measured 0.54m in diameter and 0.19m deep, had sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill (404). This consisted of a uniform dark reddish brown silty loam based deposit. Immediately to the west were two intercutting postholes (406 and 408). Posthole 408 was roughly 0.35m in diameter and 0.16m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its dark reddish brown silty loam fill (409). Posthole 406 was approximately 0.5m in diameter and 0.21m deep with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. One sherd of 13th-mid-15th century Totnes-type pottery and two sherds 14th-15th century Totnes-type plain ridge tile were recovered from its fill (407). This consisted of a uniform dark reddish brown silty loam based deposit.

At the southern end of the trench are a number of contemporary wall foundations. The N-S aligned wall foundation uncovered in Trench 2 (403) was c. 3m long and may originally have extended for another 5m north as indicated by the survival of pockets of large stone rubble in the section of Trench 4. Built of roughly squared granite and granite rubble, only the very lowest foundation course survived. This was sat directly on top of the natural subsoil and was approximately 1m wide and 0.2m high. To the south wall (403) was contemporary with an E-W aligned 5.2m long section of masonry (435). This was approximately 2m wide and survived to a height of 0.35m. A further contemporary wall was identified along the western edge of the trench. Wall (436) was aligned N-S and survived to a length of approximately 1.75m. Interestingly a single large granite floor slab (437) survived in the corner between walls (425) and (436). Due to the limited exposure it was not possible to recover the plan of the building. In addition, extensive deposits of granite building rubble (402 and 434) were uncovered in the centre and southern end of the trench. The former contained five sherds of 17th-18th century North Devon gravel tempered ware and a single sherd of 18th century stained Delft ware.

The topsoil (400) and subsoil (401) contained a single sherd of mid-10th-13th century Upper Greensand derived pottery and eight sherds of 1250-1450 Saintonge pottery from western France, as well as 18 sherds of 13th-15th century pottery, and 125 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

4.5 Trench 5 (Detailed plans and section Fig. 13)

This trench measured 9.5m x 1.2m, was orientated NW-SE, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. It was sited to investigate an extensive multi-phase earthwork and the moat. A small bank (507/508) and associated ditch (505) were exposed. These were

superseded by a larger bank (511-514) and moat (509). Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 5, Appendix 1.

Immediately on top of the natural subsoil (500) was a 0.4m thick buried soil horizon (501/502). This consisted of mid-brown silty loam, although due to heavy root disturbance no soil samples were taken. This was cut to the north by ditch (505) and overlain in the centre by a small earth bank (507/508). Both features were aligned roughly NE-SW. The ditch was approximately 2.3m wide and 0.6m deep, while the bank measured 2.35m wide and 0.9m high. The fill (506) of ditch (505) consisted of a uniform mid-grey gleyed clay deposit; deliberately backfilled material excavated from the later moat. The bank was composed of a mid to dark reddish brown silty loam (507) overlain by mid-reddish brown silty loam (508). No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

Following the infilling of the earlier ditch a larger bank was constructed with the up-cast from the moat (509). This was composed of four deposits; the smaller lower deposits (511-512) were composed of mid-reddish brown silty loam with occasional sub-angular gravel, while the upper deposits (513-514) comprised light greyish yellow clay with frequent sub-angular gravel and decayed granite. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

At the rear of the banks was a NE-SW aligned linear (503). This probable beam slot measured approximately 1m wide and 0.4m deep, with a steep-sided and flat-based profile. No finds were recovered from the single fill (504). This consisted of a mid-reddish brown loamy clay deposit. This feature probably continues into Trench 3 and 4.

Immediately to the north were the backfilled remains of the moat (509). This was not investigated.

4.6 Trench 6

This trench measured 4.7m x 1.6m, was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. The trench was sited to investigate the remains of a possible medieval building identified in Trench 4. Archaeological features identified included building remains, represented by a N-S aligned wall foundation (602) at the northern end of the trench, and extensive demolition deposits (601 and 603) and described under Trench 4 above. Natural subsoil (604) was encountered at a depth of 0.6m below current ground level. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 6, Appendix 1.

The topsoil (600) and subsoil (601) contained 6 sherds of 13th-15th century pottery, and 125 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

4.7 Trench 7 (Detailed plans and section Fig. 14)

This trench measured 37m x 1m, was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was sited to investigate linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The only features present was the remains of a palaeochannel (702); no pre-modern archaeological features or finds were recovered. Natural subsoil (701) was encountered at a depth of 0.3m below current ground level. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 7, Appendix 1.

At the northern end of the trench a NE-SW aligned linear (702) was uncovered. It measured 3.5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.35m; with gradually breaking sides. It contained a single mid to dark brown black peaty loam based fill (703) similar to the overlying topsoil.

No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. The anomaly identified by the geophysical survey in this position is therefore likely to be a palaeochannel.

4.8 **Trench 8** (Detailed plans and section Fig. 15, pls. 1-2)

This trench measured 10.75m x 6.85m, was orientated approximately E-W, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. It was sited to investigate the fragmentary wall remains identified in Trench 2 and 4. The trench exposed heavily robbed-out wall foundations (808), (809), (810) and (813) and robber trench (812). In addition, the remains of a single hearth stone (811), three cobbled surfaces (816, 817 and 818) and two postholes (803 and 805) were identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 8, Appendix 1.

The remains of three walls were identified in the NW area of Trench 8. These consisted of a roughly E-W aligned footing (808), c. 3.65m long and 0.55m wide. The fragmentary remains of a roughly N-S aligned wall (809) extended over a distance of c. 4.2m from the eastern edge of wall 808. Although no clear relationship between the two walls survived they are thought to be contemporary. Extending southwards from the western edge of wall 808 were the remains of a large section of masonry (810). This projected beyond the end of wall 808 and contained a large granite slab (811) on the inside face. The wall was approximately 2m long and between 0.75m and 1.65m wide.

Along the southern edge of Trench 8 was robber trench 812 and the remains of a heavily robbed out wall foundation (813). Measuring approximately 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep, it was aligned roughly E-W and continued for a distance of approximately 3.95m before terminating. South of robber trench 812 and running parallel with it the natural subsoil (802) had been cut over a distance of 6m and to a depth of 0.11m. Surviving within this at the western end was a small area of rough flooring (816) consisting of small to medium size granite fragments worn smooth across the exposed upper surface and closely set together. This measured approximately 1.8m long and 0.6m wide.

The remains of two cobbled surfaces were exposed along the eastern edge of the trench. Cobbled surface (817), consisting of small to medium size water-worn stones, was contained within terracing (815), while cobbled surface (818), consisting of medium size water-worn stones, extended north of wall (813) for a distance of 4.6m. A large number of horseshoe nails were recovered from cobbled surface (818).

Two small postholes (803 and 805) were located within the reduced area. Posthole 803 measured 0.72m in diameter and 0.4m deep. No finds were recovered from its mid-to-dark reddish brown silty loam fill (804). Feature 805 was a small circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was approximately 0.62m in diameter and was 0.58m deep. The posthole contained a roughly squared 0.32m wide post-pipe (807) consisting of clean dark reddish brown silty loam. The posthole fill (806) consisted of mid-to-dark reddish brown silty loam with frequent granite rubble packing. No finds were recovered from this feature.

The topsoil (800) and demolition deposit (801) contained five prehistoric flints, 34 sherds of 13th-15th century pottery, and 1055 sherds of post-medieval and later industrial wares.

4.9 **Trench 9** (Detailed plans and section Fig. 16, pls. 3-9)

This trench measured 8.35m x 5.35m, was orientated approximately E-W, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. It was sited to investigate the two parallel post trenches

identified in Trench 4 and to provide an indication of the timber building plan. The trench exposed extensive multi-phase building remains (902), (904), (906), (908), (910) and associated posthole (926), and (912), (914), (916), (932) and (934). In addition, seven postholes (410, 412, 918, 922, 924, 930 and 938), and a large area of later disturbance (936) were also identified. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 9, Appendix 1.

The earliest features identified were two parallel NE-SW aligned linears (912/914/916 and 932/934). Feature (912/914/916) is a probable curvilinear post trench, 0.55m wide and 0.29m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. Five sherds of Totnes-type coarseware pottery, dating to the 14th-15th century, and a single fragment of Totnes-type ridgetile, dating to the 14th-17th century, were recovered from its single mid-reddish brown silty loam fill (913/915/917). A single sherd of early 19th century Staffordshire-type pearl and tortoise shell ware, a single Georgian copper farthing and one 1921 George V half-penny are likely intrusive. Feature (932/934) was a larger curvilinear post-trench, was 1.1m wide and 0.6m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A single sherd of Upper-Greensand derived coarseware pottery, dating to the mid-10th-early 13th century, and two sherds of Totnes-type ridgetile, dating to the 14th-17th century, were recovered from its single fill (933/935). This consisted of mid-reddish brown silty loam. Although the two features were quadranted no post-pipes or postholes, the remains of long decayed timber uprights, were identified along the length of the features. Postholes (930) and (928), although located on the edge of the two post-trenches may not be related to these. Feature 932/934 continues into Trenches 3 and 5.

Located within the trench were seven postholes, 410 and 412 were previously identified in 2015, and 918, 922, 924, 928 and 930. Feature 918 was a large circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a diameter of approximately 0.56m and was 0.23m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (919). This consisted of dark reddish brown silty loam. Posthole 922 measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.27m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (923), consisting of mid-to-dark reddish brown silty loam. Feature 924 was a small circular posthole, with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a diameter of approximately 0.53m and was 0.09m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (925). This consisted of dark reddish brown silty loam. It is unclear if the postholes correspond with elements of timber-framed buildings defined by the post-trenches in Trench 9.

The remains of a later timber framed building were partially revealed during the excavations (902, 904, 906, 908). This consisted of a small roughly NW-SE aligned post trench, which turned west ward before continuing in a N-S direction. The linear was approximately 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep, with sharply breaking sides and a flat base. A single sherd of 14th-15th century Totnes-type wheelthrown coarseware was recovered from its single dark reddish brown silty loam fill (903/905/907/909), while a single 19th-20th century plain clear glass fragment is likely intrusive.

The latest feature identified consisted of two large irregular areas of disturbance (920 and 936). These were located immediately to the south of post-trench 934 and at the western end of post-trench 916. The larger disturbance (936) measured 2.75m long and 0.42m deep, had gradually breaking sides and an irregular base, and contained a single mid-to-dark reddish brown silty loam fill (937). sharply breaking sides and a flat base. This contained seven 14th-15th century Totnes-type coarseware sherds, a single 14th-17th century Totnes-type ridgetile, one 15th-16th century floor-tile and a single sherd of unidentified 16th-17th century fine ware. Feature 920 was c. 2.35m long and 1.95m wide, with gently breaking sides and an irregular

base. It contained a single mid-to-dark reddish brown silty loam fill (921) and no finds were recovered from this feature.

The topsoil (900) contained five sherds of undecorated Totnes-type coarseware dating to the 14th-15th century, a single 15th-16th century floor-tile fragment with dark green glaze, two sherds from a Raeren stoneware drinking vessel dating to 1480-1550, and 131 sherds of post-medieval or later industrial wares.

5. THE FINDS

by John Allan and Imogen Woods

5.1 Introduction

This is an interesting assemblage from a relatively remote settlement on the edge of Dartmoor. The assemblage is mainly composed of late medieval and post-medieval finds with some interesting imports. The sherds are largely in a good condition, although some of the material is abraded. Most of the pottery comes from unsealed contexts with evidence of truncation through late post-medieval activity. The finds are briefly described below and itemised in Appendix 2.

5.2 Lithics

The lithic assemblage comprises a total of 10 struck flints from trenches 1, 4, 6 and 8. Four are flakes, including one retouched as a scraper, while one is a rejuvenated core. All date from the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods and were residual in the topsoil.

5.3 Medieval pottery

The medieval pottery assemblage comprises 214 sherds and ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to late medieval period. The condition of the assemblage is variable with sherd sizes ranging from large with reasonably fresh breaks to small and somewhat abraded. A number of diagnostic vessel forms are recognisable. Where applicable, fabrics are given their unique code as designated by Allan (1984).

Saxo-Norman coarseware

Three sherds of chert-tempered Upper Greensand derived pottery were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 4 and 5. They are mid-10th-early 13th century in date. A further sherd was recovered from the fill of post-trench (934). Although few in number their provenance, through petrological analysis, is likely to help shed further light on early medieval pottery distribution patterns. Allan suggests that a picture is emerging from recent archaeological work that throughout the Saxo-Norman period pottery was supplied in considerable quantities from potteries in the Blackdowns to communities as much as 90km away, before the emergence of more localised industries in north and south Devon in the early and mid-13th century (Allan 2010). The small quantity of chert-tempered material recovered from the site to-date would certainly support this view.

Saintonge

A total of eight body sherds belonging to a single unglazed vessel displaying no diagnostic features were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4. The vessel broadly dates to the period 1250-1450. This is an imported pottery from western France (Barton 1963). The trade in pottery from the Saintonge area to Devon probably began in the mid-13th-century, with the earliest examples found in Exeter dating to c. 1240, and lasted until the late 15th century. At the start of this period Gascony was part of the Duchy of Aquitaine, then a royal fief, and

many of the vessels that have been found in Devon probably made their way from the ports of La Rochelle and Bordeaux as part of mixed cargoes. By the beginning of the 14th century Exeter was a major port for importing wine, on a par with Southampton, Hull and Sandwich and only just behind Bristol and Boston, then the leading provincial ports in the wine trade (Allan 1984). In terms of distribution Saintonge pottery has therefore been for the most part found at coastal or urban sites, locations more easily accessible to traders, and only very occasionally in remote upland sites.

Valencian lustreware

Two sherds of Valencian lustreware from a closed form, either a cup or bowl, tin-glazed with distinctive metallic copper-coloured decoration were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 1 (Pls. 19-20). By the early 1400s, the potteries of Valencia in southern Spain had started to produce fine tin-glazed earthenwares decorated with glossy designs in copper or gold. The pottery often included religious symbols and inscriptions or armourials on a highly decorated background of stylised botanical motifs. By the mid-1400s Valencia had become the most important centre of lustreware production in Spain, and the pottery was exported via Genoa around the Mediterranean and to northern Europe and the Baltic. This high status pottery was imported from Valencia from the mid-15th century for use as tableware. It has been found in Exeter and Totnes and other medieval urban centres in southern Devon, but rarely on rural sites.

North French Barrel Costrel

A total of five sherds belonging to a possible North French Barrel Costrel fragment with a buff coloured surface, whitish grey sandy fabric and green external glaze were recovered from ditch fill (304). The vessel dates to the 13th-14th century. The five co-joining sherds form the domed end of a Costrel are the least abraded in the assemblage and come from a sealed context, making this unique find of even greater value. It is of regional significance as Costrels, especially North French Costrels are rare in Devon, the most comparable fabric and form example is from South Street, Exeter, which John Allan (1984, 21, 83) has said was a remarkable find on an English site and dates to the late 13th century. They originate from France and were used in southern Britain from the 13th-15th centuries to carry water or alcohol (Dunning 1964). Costrels were barrel-shaped, and had lugs with holes on either side of the mouth so that they could be carried on a cord worn on the belt or round the neck. The word costrel comes from the French word costerel, coste meaning 'side' – the flask would be worn to one side while the owner was working. Other Costrels recorded by Dunning in Devon have been found in the River Teign (non-French 15th century) and Cockington (brown fabric green glaze), both in south Devon.

Coarsewares

The coarseware sherds are mostly small body sherds and display few diagnostic features. The majority of the medieval pottery is locally sourced with Totnes-type fabric dominating the assemblage. The recognisable local fabrics include 146 sherds of Totnes-type, including one jug and one thumbled base from 400 and 401; 11 sherds of North Devon gravel tempered ware including one large storage jar with reinforced rim, two jugs, two bottles, one tankard, one jug rim and one closed cooking vessel from 800, and three sherds of South Somerset red ware (or derivatives of) from 109, 204 and 400; while medieval pottery from an unknown source accounts for a further 26 sherds. These all span the period 13th-15th century.

Ridge tile

43 fragments of 14th-16th century Totnes-type unglazed ridge tile were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9, including four tiles with high peak and scrape marks dated to the 14th-15th century.

Other

A single flat tile with chamfered sides and slightly wedge shaped, probably from an oven and dated to the 15th-16th century, was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4.

5.4 Post-medieval pottery

The post-medieval pottery assemblage comprises 1879 sherds and ranges in date from the 16th-19th century. A number of diagnostic vessel forms are recognisable. Where applicable, fabrics are given their unique code as designated by Allan (1984).

Stonewares

Five sherds of Frechen stoneware with mottled glaze dating to the 16th-17th century, including a sherd from a Bellarmine jug, nine sherds of 16th-17th century Raeren stoneware and a single sherd of salt-glazed Westerwald were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9. By the end of the 15th century Rhenish stonewares were imported to Exeter in large quantities from Raeren and Frechen, and at a later date Westerwald material, representing nearly half of the cities imports throughout this period (Allan 1984). They were common imports to the region, though not to Dartmoor.

In addition, 34 sherds of 18th-19th century English stoneware and four sherds of unprovenanced stoneware dating to the 19th century were also recovered.

Tin-glazed wares

Eight sherds of Dutch tin-glazed pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 4 and 8. The two sherds with blue painted decoration recovered from Trench 1 were probably made in London in the early 17th century, while the 4 sherds from Trench 4 are delftware attributed to the Netherlands and dating to the period 1670-1760.

By the beginning of the 16th century the Dutch produced tiles and pottery using a new manufacturing technique, Delftware, the term describing earthenware with a lead glaze to which tin oxide has been added. The first Delftware factory in England was established in Norwich in 1567 although production soon moved to London. The earliest Dutch potters settled in Aldgate and Southwark, but by the mid-1600s a flourishing industry developed in Southwark and Lambeth. This industry thrived throughout the 17th-18th century, although it began to decline by c.1760, when it was overtaken by cream-ware, cream coloured earthenware, produced in Staffordshire and across England (Allan 1984).

English wares

Seven sherds of 18th century Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware, including a posset pot with yellow/brown trails were recovered from the topsoil in trench 1 and 8. These were exported to Exeter from the late 17th century, although their number rapidly increased from c.1720 onwards before going out of use by the early 19th century.

By far the largest proportion of pottery was composed of industrial wares, represented by 1336 sherds of late 18th-19th century Staffordshire transfer decorated white earthenware, including shell edge ware, hand painted pearl ware and cream ware.

Other English wares recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 included 38 sherds of 18th century Devon white ware, a single sherd of sherd of mid-18th century Agate ware, 17 sherds of Bovey Tracey white ware, 2 sherds of 19th century Brown stain ware and a single sherd of 19th century Basalt ware.

Coarsewares

The coarseware sherds consist mostly of small body sherds and display few diagnostic features. The majority of the post-medieval coarseware assemblage is dominated by North Devon and South Somerset fabrics, with only one-third of the pottery coming from Totnes, perhaps surprising given the location of the site. The recognisable local fabrics include 151 sherds of Totnes-type, including one type 2A flared bowl and one tripod pot; and 219 sherds of South Somerset red ware (or derivatives of) including 33 sherds with trailed slip decoration and a single sherd with copper green slip decoration; while North Devon gravel tempered wares account for a further 123 sherds, including a single type 3 bowl, two type 2 jugs and a single large jar. 10 sherds North Devon sgraffito and slipware were also recovered. These all span the period 16th-19th century.

Ridge tile

35 fragments of 16th-18th century Totnes-type unglazed ridge tile were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9, including a single tile fragment with incised line dated to between 1500-1750.

5.5 Glass

49 fragments of late 16th-19th century English green bottle glass were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8, including a single onion bottle base, two apothecary bottle and one wine glass.

In addition, 19 sherds of 16th-early 17th century diamond shaped window glass with grozed edges was recovered from the topsoil in trench 8. A further 10 sherds of undated window glass were recovered from Trenches 5 and 6.

5.6 Clay pipe

There are two early bowls dating to the late 17th-early 18th century, with a further 175 clay pipe stems dating to the late 18th-19th century. The remaining 15 bowls date to the 19th century, including a single bowl with reeded decoration marked RC. R Chapple was working at Newton Abbot in 1866-73 (Allan 1984, 293).

5.7 Roofing slate

Large quantities of south Devon roofing slate were recovered from Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8. This is likely to come from Norton in the South Hams (dark grey color) and Garington near Ashburton (silvery green color), and dates to the period before the 18th century.

5.8 Metal

An incomplete medieval copper alloy Jetton, probably of Charles VI of France (AD 1380-1422) was recovered from the topsoil. Obverse description: Beaded circle containing shield of France, containing three lys. Obverse inscription: AVE.[MARI]A.GRACIA.[...] (L.V.?) Reverse description: Short cross with four pellets lining both sides of each arm, rose or quatrefoil at centre. Large lys at the end of each arm, each arm contained within an arc of a four arched tressure. Small stylized X and pellet within the outer spandrel of each tressure. The surface of the Jetton is worn, and has a hard dark to mid-green patina. The word jeton

comes from the French verb "jeter," used in the sense of "to push," because the counters were pushed over the counter board. The earliest English jetons date to c.1280. After the reign of Edward 1, the production of English jetons diminished in the 14th century and French jetons were imported in large quantities.

In addition, the metal detecting uncovered a further 12 18th century Tombac buttons, zinc-copper alloy and lathe turned and a single 18th-19th century copper alloy button; a single c. 16th – 18th century copper alloy star shaped mount, a 17th-19th century lead bullet; a lead weight; one pewter handle; a Copper penny of George II dated 1750; a farthing of George IV third or fourth issue (c. 1799 – 1820); one Georgian copper farthing; two copper half pennies of either George IV or William IV (c. 1820-1837); one half-penny 1921 George V; one cast running chicken figure; a lead bar, bent, with a T-shaped cross section and two possible lead window came fragment.

84 Fe fragments were also recovered from the topsoil.

5.9 Conclusion

With a few exceptions the assemblage is fairly unusual for a rural settlement of this time period. The presence of a small quantity of chert-tempered pottery suggests a certain level of early 13th century activity. It is thought that the moated manor at North Hall was established sometime around 1216 and although no early features have been identified to-date it is possible that there may have been earlier occupation of the site.

The presence of a small number of imports, in particular the two very abraded Valencian lustreware sherds, is suggestive of high status activity in the 15th-16th century. The Costrel is of regional significance providing valuable evidence for possible links between rural settlements on Dartmoor and their connection with the Continent in the 13th-14th centuries. In addition, the presence of Saintonge pottery (1250-1450) from western France and an incomplete copper alloy jetton, probably of Charles VI of France (1380-1422) further emphasises the high-status nature and contacts of the site.

As expected, Totnes-type fabrics dominate the assemblage throughout the medieval period at North Hall, but by the post-medieval period the trend is reversed, with North Devon material dominating the assemblage, perhaps surprising given the location of the site.

The imported pottery from North Hall echoes trends identified in Exeter, with the presence of Rhenish stonewares and Dutch or London tin-glaze wares reflecting the cities trade patterns in the late 17th centuries; before being replaced by English wares from the early 18th century onwards, reflecting a decline in trade with the Low Countries. The presence of decorative Staffordshire/Bristol and South Somerset slip-wares suggests the continued consumption of fine table wares in the 18th and early 19th centuries, while the presence of bottle glass suggests the consumption of wine, rather than cider which is associated with agricultural occupation. Although the assemblage is relatively small it possibly indicates a certain level of occupation of the site beyond the 17th century when it has been assumed the manor house was demolished.

6. DISCUSSION

The work to date has exposed extensive medieval and post-medieval activity. A number of deposits contained sufficient finds to allow them to be assigned within broad historical periods on the basis of dating evidence alone, and stratigraphic information has allowed for some phasing of features within trenches. Where such stratigraphic information and dating evidence is absent, some relative phasing has been attempted on the basis of similarities of alignment and nature and character of features. The distribution and interpretation of archaeological features identified during the evaluation is shown on Fig. 17.

Evidence for building activity consists of five heavily robbed walls in Trenches 2, 4 and 8. Although only the lowest course of masonry survived these structural remains form a putative E-W range. The remains previously identified in Trenches 2 and 4 likely form a small chamber wing, heated by a large fireplace in the west elevation with the large granite slab re-interpreted as a hearth stone. In addition, the remains of three floor surfaces were identified in Trench 8. Two internal floor surfaces survived within the putative E-W range, while the cobbled surface to the north is likely an external yard. The areas to the west of the chamber and north of the court yard were covered in small, loose stone rubble directly overlying natural subsoil suggesting that any walls and laid flooring material had been removed at the time of demolition. Although no dating evidence was found associated with the walls it is on balance likely that these form the remains of the manor house rather than part of the buildings shown on the 1844 Tithe map. It remains unclear to what extent the 19th century buildings reused the earlier building or buildings.

Further evidence of demolition activity was uncovered in Trench 1. This consisted of an extensive layer of small, loose stone rubble overlying natural subsoil.

The earliest feature of the moated manor was the multi-phase earthen bank exposed within Trenches 3 and 5. The primary phase is defined by a small ditch and earth bank. While evidence for the bank is restricted to the western part of the site the ditch has also been identified in Trenches 1 and 4, the banks having been removed by modern activity. In addition, both banks would have stood much higher; their current profile being the result of later erosion. The bank material for the early bank is predominantly soil-based, while the construction of the later bank entailed the significant excavation of the local granitic natural subsoil. Partial excavation of the moat showed that it was 10m wide and at least 2m deep. The auger survey undertaken in 2012 would suggest a depth for the moat in excess of 2.75m.

The construction of both banks represents a significant investment of both time and effort. The complete absence of dating evidence is unfortunate as it has not been possible to establish a date for the construction and abandonment of the two phases.

The cross-sections through the rampart have so far failed to uncover evidence for an external timber revetment of the bank. The timber structure defending the lower bailey at Hen Domen, Montgomery, consisted of a series of postholes set approximately 3-4m apart. No postholes have yet come to light at North Hall, although this is perhaps not surprising considering the narrow nature of the trenches. The post-trench located at the tail of the bank in Trenches 3 and 5 were probably excavated to hold a post and wattle structure. It is possible, in view of the results from Trenches 1 and 4 below, that they represent the possible remains of open-fronted buildings. Significantly five sherds of a possible 'North French Barrel Costrel', dating to the 13th-14th century, were recovered from the infill of this feature in Trench 3.

To the east two parallel curvilinear post-trenches, set 6.5m apart, were exposed in Trench 4. Excavation in 2016 failed to recover the complete ground-plan within Trench 9 but suggests the presence of a substantial timber-framed building set against the rear of the rampart. The presence of a later post-trench, perpendicular to the earthen defensive bank, indicates a later timber building phase extended towards the centre of the site. It is unclear if either building is contemporary with the postholes identified in Trenches 4 and 9 or whether they form part of a separate timber building. A total of 15 sherds, dating to the 13th-15th century, were recovered from the post-trenches and postholes, including a single sherd of Upper-Greensand derived coarseware pottery dating to the mid-10th-early 13th century.

No post-trenches were uncovered in Trench 1 and it is possible that buildings did not extend into this area. However, a single large post-pit was uncovered in Trench 1 sealed by extensive demolition deposits.

Trench 7 identified the remains of a palaeochannel, suggesting that the field to the north of the manor house, identified as North Hall Moor on historic maps, was an ancient river valley.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Although limited in scope and scale, the excavation has established the presence of a multi-phase medieval moated manor house on the site. The geophysical survey, undertaken in advance of the excavations is only partly reliable, indicating a dense concentration of archaeological activity. All of the anomalies identified were investigated and proved to be mainly geological in origin, while a large number of additional features and structures have since been exposed, demonstrating that the site is more archaeologically complex than previously thought.

The identification of the earthen banks represents the first exposure of the medieval manor. Preservation is generally good along the western edge of the site. The banks have largely escaped the post-medieval levelling and agricultural erosion that has been noted along the northern edge of the site. The primary and secondary defences, along with the remains of a possible timber-framed structure have been identified, with a number of 13th-14th century pottery sherds recovered from the latter.

Evidence for timber buildings was previously identified in Trenches 1 and 4. Consisting of a number of post-trenches and postholes they suggested the presence of an early timber phase or phases. Further excavation attempted to recover the floor-plan of a substantial timber-framed building set against the rear of the rampart in Trench 9. This was replaced by a timber building on a different alignment. The postholes identified in Trenches 4 and 9 may be related to these buildings or they may represent separate phases of building activity. A number of 13th-15th century pottery sherds were recovered from these features.

Finally, the remains of a large stone building have been exposed in the centre of the site. Consisting of the remnants of five heavily robbed wall foundations they form a putative E-W range. Remains of two extremely fragmentary surfaces survived within this range. The wall remains previously identified in Trenches 2 and 4 have been reinterpreted as the remnants of a small chamber wing with a large fireplace in the western elevation. The large granite slab, previously identified as the remains of an earlier floor, has been reinterpreted as a hearth stone. No evidence survived of flooring within this room. The extensive cobbled surface to the east of the wing is likely an external yard. No earlier timber phase was exposed

underneath the stone building and it is unclear from the limited exposure and lack of secure dating whether the stone building is contemporary with the timber buildings or whether they represent separate phases of activity. Finally, although the building is not securely dated it is on balance likely to represent the remains of the manor house rather than elements of the post-medieval building shown on an 18th century estate map and the 1844 Tithe map.

By its nature, the limited work undertaken to date can only provide an initial indication of the nature of the medieval manor and its subsequent development during the post-medieval period. Additional trenches targeted perhaps on the main manorial building and location of the possible gatehouse, as well as further excavation of the moat should further assist in a broad characterization of the site, but a degree of open area excavation will be required to more fully understand its origins and development.

8. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive currently being held by Oakford Archaeology (project no. 1317) pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the investigations, including a copy of this report have been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-279177).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This community excavation was commissioned and funded by the Dartmoor National Park Authority and the Glebe Farm Partnership. Thanks are due to Andy Crabb (DNPA) and Lee Bray (DNPA) for their help and input throughout. Further thanks are due to the landowners Margaret and Michael (Glebe Farm Partnership) for supplying the excavator and tea barn, and allowing the excavation to go ahead on their land. Special thanks are due to Peter Rennells and the Widecombe History Group without whose exemplary and dedicated work we would ever have known about the site. Thanks are due Jonathan Martin, Emma Stockley, Willem Montagne and to all the volunteers for their kind help during the excavation. The finds analysis was carried out by John Allan and Imogen Woods; the illustrations for this report were prepared by Marc Steinmetzer.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished sources

Devon Heritage Centre

Tithe map and apportionment of Widecombe 1841

County Series maps: Sheet 35/8 1:25" 1886

County Series maps: Sheet 35/8 1:25" 1905

Allan J. P. Pottery and the Material Culture of the Medieval Peasant on Dartmoor. Moor than meets the eye.

Dean, R. 2011. *An archaeological earth resistance survey. Land at Glebe Farm, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon*. Report No. **110713**.

Collings, A. 2000 Archaeological assessment of site of the Gardeners Arms, Coronation Road, Wonford, Exeter. Exeter Archaeol. Report No. **00-23**.

Husband, T. Valencian Lusterware of the Fifteenth century: Notes and Documents. Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Randall, R. H. *Lusterware of Spain*. Metropolitan Museum of Art.
 Stead, P. 2001 Archaeological evaluation of the Gardeners Arms site, Coronation Road, Wonford, Exeter. Exeter Archaeol. Report No. **01.21**.

Published sources

- Aberg, F. A. (ed) 1978 *Medieval moated sites*. CBA Report No. 17.
 Aberg, F. A. and Brown, A. E. 1981 *Medieval moated sites in North-West Europe*. BAR International Series 121.
 Allan, J. P. 1984 *Medieval and Post-Medieval finds from Exeter, 1971-1980*. Exeter Archaeological Reports. Vol 3.
 Allan, J. P. 1994 *Medieval pottery and the dating of deserted settlements on Dartmoor*. Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc. 52, pp 141-148.
 Allan, J. P., Hughes, M. J. and Taylor, R. T. 2010 *Saxo-Norman pottery in Somerset: Some recent research*. Somerset Archaeology and Natural History, pp 165-184.
 Allen, T. G. and Hillier, J. 2002 *The excavation of a medieval manor house of the bishops of Winchester at Mount House, Witney, Oxfordshire*. Thames Valley Landscape Monographs No. 13.
 Amery, P. F. S. 1891 *Old Ashburton*. Totnes.
 Betham, W. 1805 *The Baronetage of England*.
 Barton, K. J. 1963 *The medieval pottery of Saintonge*. Archaeological Journal 120, pp 201-214.
 Beresford, G. 1979 *Three deserted medieval settlements on Dartmoor: A report on the late E. M. Minter's excavations*. Medieval Archaeol. 23, pp98-153.
 Bernard, F.P. 1981 *The Casting-Counter and the Counting-Board*, Oxford.
 Berry, G. 1974 *Medieval English Jetons*, London.
 Blair, J. 1987 *The 12th century Bishops palace at Hereford*. Medieval Archaeology 31, pp 59-72.
 Brown, N. R. 2006 *A medieval moated manor by the Thames estuary: Excavations at Southchurch Hall, Southend, Essex*. East Anglia Archaeology 115.
 Burke, J. 1888 *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the commoners of Great Britain and Ireland*.
 Decaens, J. 1993 'De la Motte au Chateau de Pierre dans le Nord-Ouest de la France', in (ed) Meirion-Jones, G. and Jones, M. (ed.) *Manorial domestic buildings in England and northern France*. The Society of Antiquaries, Vol. 15.
 Dunning, G. C. 1964 'Barrel-shaped and cylindrical Costrels on the Continent and in England', in (ed) Cunliffe, B. *Winchester Excavations 1949-1960, Vol 1*. City of Winchester Museums and Libraries Committee.
 Dymond, R 1876 *Things new and old concerning the parish of Widecombe-in-the-Moor and its neighbourhood*.
 Faulkner, P. A. 1958 *Domestic planning from the 12th-14th century*. Archaeological Journal 115, pp 150-183.
 Fleming, A. 1994 *Medieval and post-medieval cultivation on Dartmoor: A landscape archaeologist's view*. Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc. 52, pp 101-118.
 French, H. 1963 *Field names in Widecombe-in-the-Moor*. Trans. Devonshire Assoc. 95, pp 156-167.
 French, H. and Linehan, C. D. 1963 *Abandoned medieval sites in Widecombe-in-the-Moor*. Trans. Devonshire Assoc. 95, pp 168-179.
 Gardiner, M. and Rippon, S. 2007 *Medieval Landscapes*. Windgather Press.
 Gawne, E. 1970 *Field patterns in Widecombe parish and the forest of Dartmoor*. Trans. Devonshire Assoc. 102, pp 49-69.
 Gent, T. 2007 *The re-excavation of a deserted medieval longhouse at Hutholes, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Dartmoor*. Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc. 65, pp 47-82.
 Gilbert, C. S. 1817 *A Historical Survey of the County of Cornwall*.
 Henderson, C. J. and Weddell, P. J. 1994 *Medieval settlements on Dartmoor and in West Devon: The evidence from excavations*. Proc. Devon Archaeol. Soc. 52, 119-140.
 Higham, R. A. 1982 *Early Castles in Devon 1068-1201*. Chateau Gaillard Etudes de Castellologie médiéval IX-X, pp 101-116.

- Higham, R. A. (ed.) 1987 *Security and Defence in South-West England before 1800*. Exeter.
- Higham, R. A. (ed.) 1989 *Landscape and Townscape in the South-West*. Exeter.
- Higham, R. A. and Barker, P. 1992 *Timber Castles*. Batsford.
- Higham, R. A. and Barker, P. 2000 *Hen Domen, Montgomery: A timber castle on the English-Welsh border*. Exeter University Press.
- Hope-Taylor, B. 1950 *The excavation of a motte at Abinger in Surrey*. *Archaeological Journal* 107, pp 15-43.
- Impey, E. 1993 'Seigneurial Domestic Architecture in Normandy 1050-1350', in (ed) Meirion-Jones, G. and Jones, M. (ed.) *Manorial domestic buildings in England and northern France*. The Society of Antiquaries, Vol. 15.
- Johnson, E. D. 2015 *Moated sites and the production of authority in the eastern Weald of England*. *Medieval Archaeol.* 59, pp 233-254.
- Kenyon, J. R. 1990 *Medieval fortifications*. Leicester University Press.
- Le Patourel, H. E. J. 1978 'Documentary evidence', in Aberg, F. A. (ed) *Medieval moated sites*. CBA Report No. 17.
- Le Patourel, H. E. J. 1978 'The excavation of moated sites', in Aberg, F. A. (ed) *Medieval moated sites*. CBA Report No. 17.
- Le Patourel, H. E. J. and Roberts, B. K. 1978 'The significance of moated sites', in Aberg, F. A. (ed) *Medieval moated sites*. CBA Report No. 17.
- Le Patourel, H. E. J. 1982 *Fortified and semi-fortified manor houses*. Chateau Gaillard Etudes de Castellologie médiéval IX-X, pp 101-116.
- Linehan, C. D. 1962 *A forgotten Manor in Widecombe-in-the-Moor*. *Trans. Devonshire Assoc.* 94, pp 463-492.
- Meirion-Jones, G., Jones, M. and Pilcher, J.R. 1993 'The Seigneurial Domestic Buildings of Brittany 1000-1700', in (ed) Meirion-Jones, G. and Jones, M. (ed.) *Manorial domestic buildings in England and northern France*. The Society of Antiquaries, Vol. 15.
- Meirion-Jones, G. and Jones, M. (ed.) 1993 *Manorial domestic buildings in England and northern France*. The Society of Antiquaries, Vol. 15.
- Orme, N. 2013 *The Church in Devon 400-1560*. Impress.
- Page, P., Atherton, K. and Hardy, A. 2005 *Barentin's Manor: Excavations of the moated manor at Harding's Field, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire 1976-9*. Thames Valley Landscape Monograph No. 24.
- Pevsner, N. 2004 *Devon*. Yale University Press.
- Pitt, K. and Taylor, J. 2009 *Finsbury's moated manor, medieval land use and later development in the Finsbury Square area, Islington*. MoLa Archaeology Studies Series 20.
- Rahtz, S. and Rowley, T. 1984 *Middleton Stoney: Excavation and Survey in a North Oxfordshire Parish 1970-1982*. University of Oxford.
- Rigold, S. E. 1978 'Structures within English moated sites', in Aberg, F. A. (ed) *Medieval moated sites*. CBA Report No. 17.
- Rodwell, K. A. 1976 *Excavations on the site of Banbury Castle, 1973-4*. *Oxoniensa* 41, pp90-147.
- Roskell, J. S., Clarke, L. and Rawcliffe, C. 1993 *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1386-1421*. Boydell.
- Saunders, A. D. 1980 *Lydford Castle, Devon*. *Medieval Archaeology* 24, pp 123-186.
- Smith, J. T. 1965 *The structure of the timber kitchen at Weoley castle, Birmingham*. *Medieval Archaeology* 9, pp 82-93.
- Smith, L. 1991 *Sydenhams Moat: A 13th century moated manor-house in the Warwickshire Arden*. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society* 96, pp 27-68.
- Soil Survey of England and Wales. 1983. *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 5 South West England*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.
- Steane, K. 1991 *Excavations at Radley Castle 1968-73*, in *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society* 96, pp 5-26.
- Sorensen, M. L. 1996. 'Sherds and pot groups as keys to site formation process', in S. Needham and T. Spence (eds.) *Refuse and disposal at area 16 East, Runnymede*. Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations 2, London, 61-74.
- Taylor, C. C. 1978 'Moated sites: Their definition, form and classification', in Aberg, F. A. (ed)

- Medieval moated sites*. CBA Report No. 17.
- Thorn, C. & Thorn, F. 1985 *Domesday*.
- Westcote, T. 1845 *A view of Devonshire in 1630: With a pedigree of most of its gentry*.
- Wilson, D. M. (ed) 1976 *The archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England*. Methuen.
- Wood, M. 1935 *Norman Domestic Architecture*. *Archaeological Journal* 92, pp 167-242.

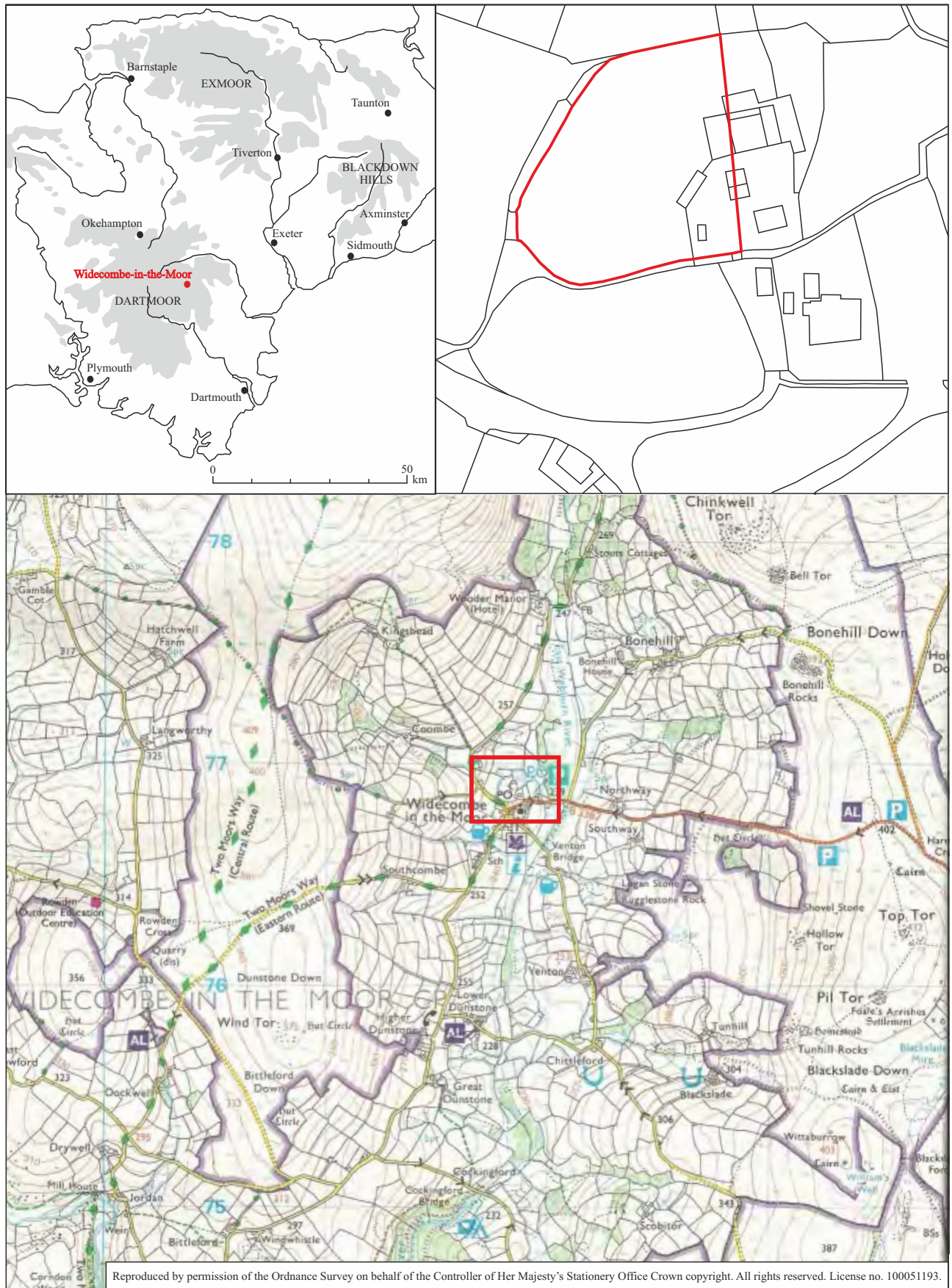


Fig. 1 Location of site



- survey boundary
- possible archaeology, low anomaly
- likely archaeology, high anomaly (supporting evidence)
- likely archaeology, extant mound
- possible archaeology, high anomaly
- possible archaeology, mound of material

Fig. 2 Trench location plan and summary results of geophysics.



Fig. 3 Detail from the 1844 Widecombe Tithe map.

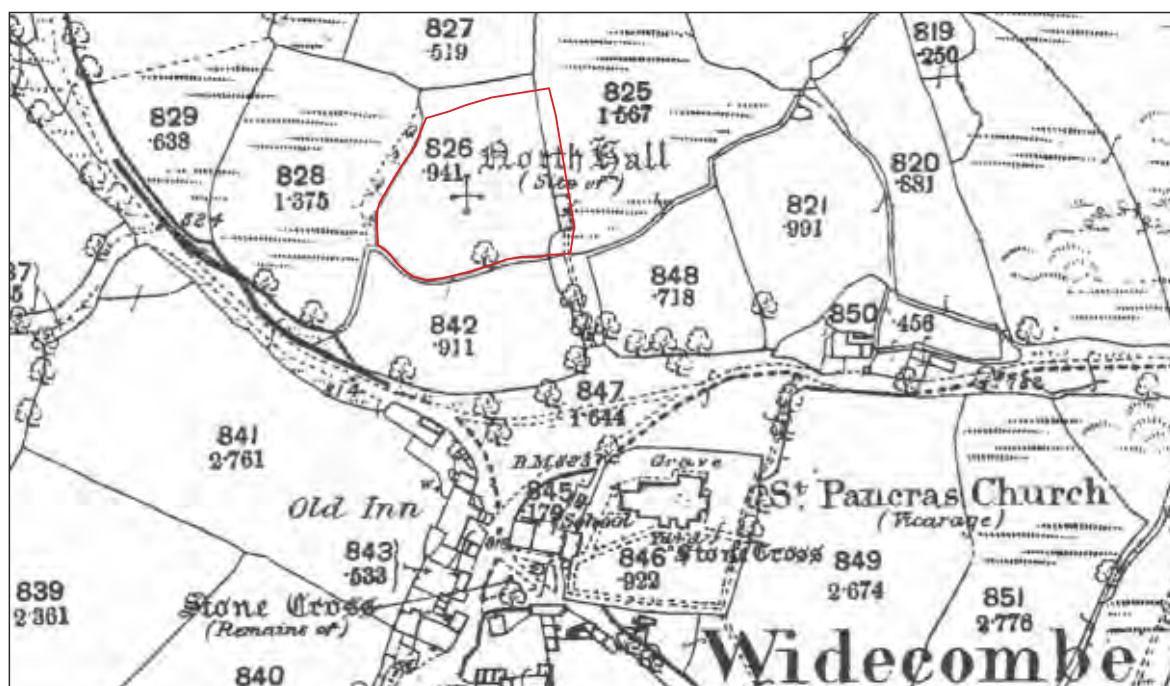


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1st edition 1886 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.14.

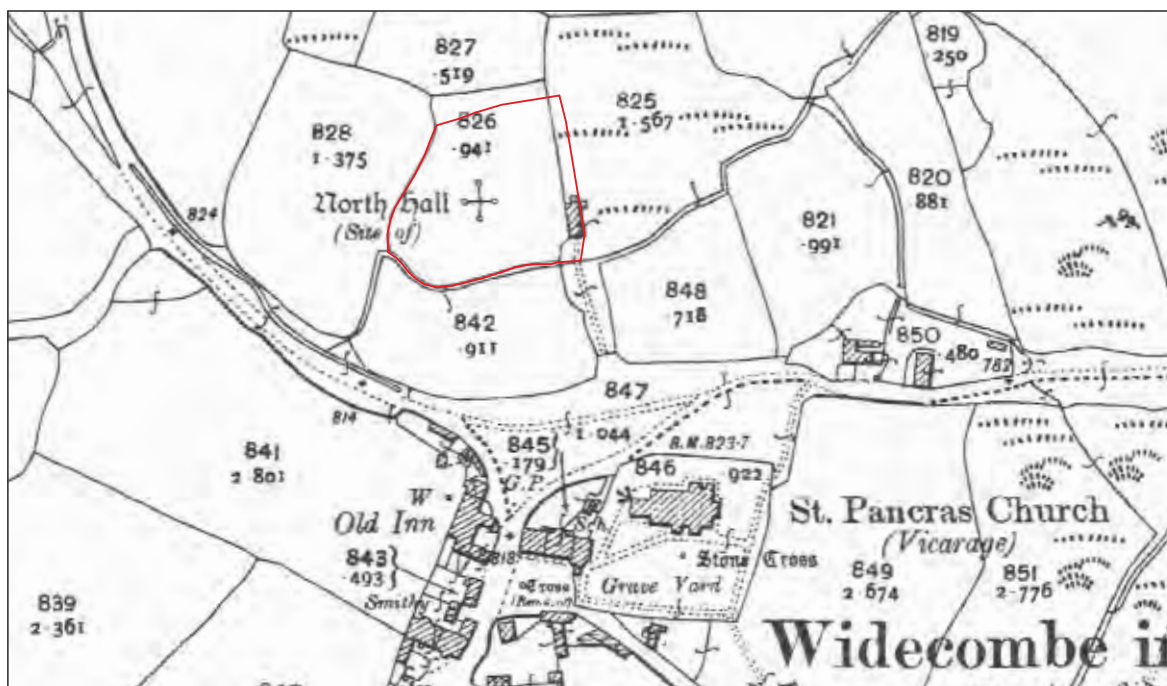


Fig. 5 Detail from the 2nd edition 1905 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet C.14.



Fig. 6 Detail from a RAF vertical aerial photograph taken in December 1946.

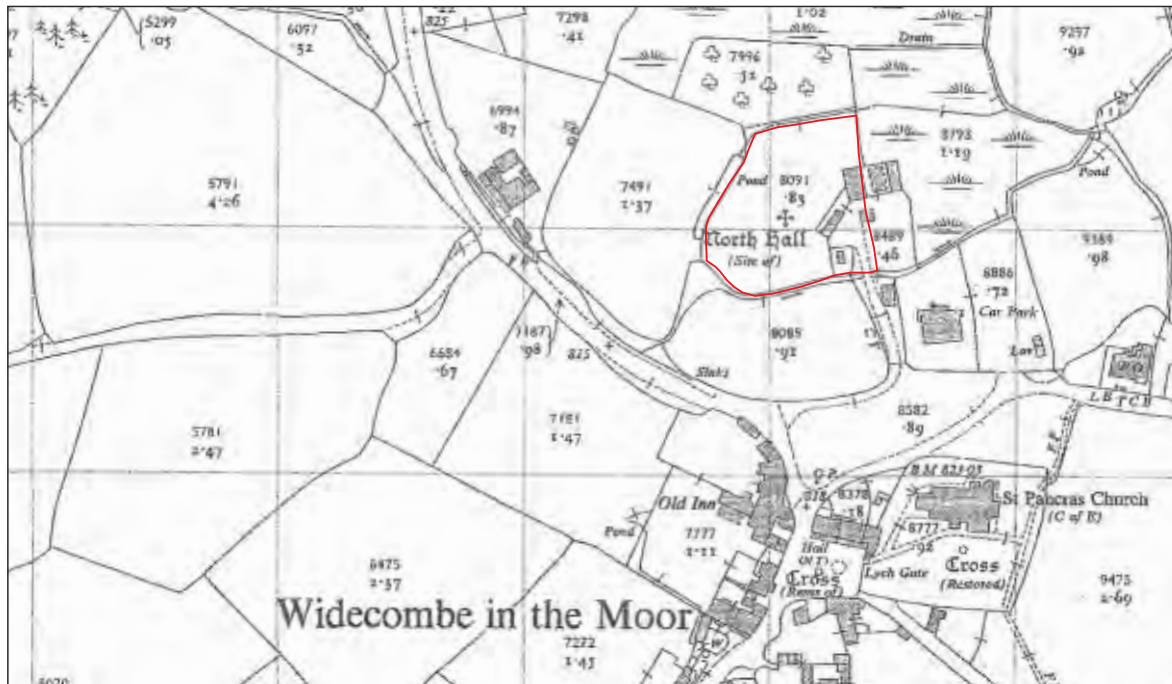


Fig. 7 Detail from the 1954 Ordnance Survey map.

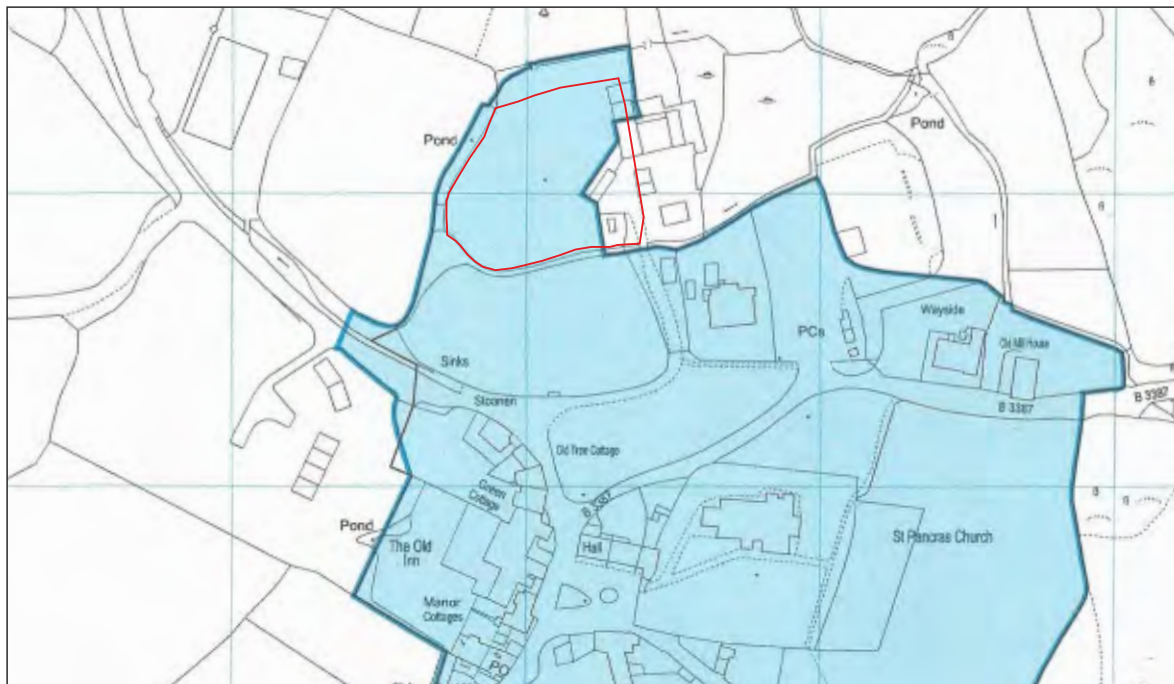
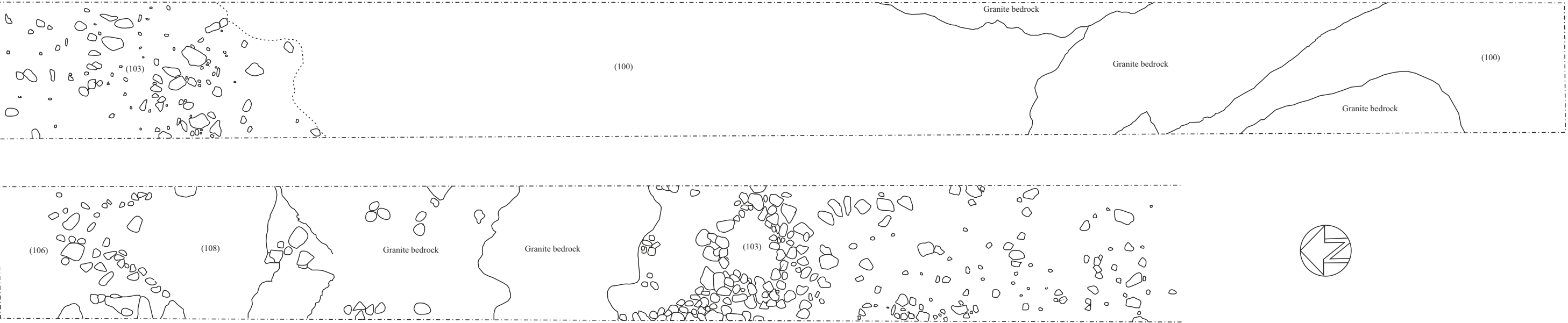


Fig. 8 Conservation Area showing location of site.

Trench 1

Plan 1



Plan 2

Section 2

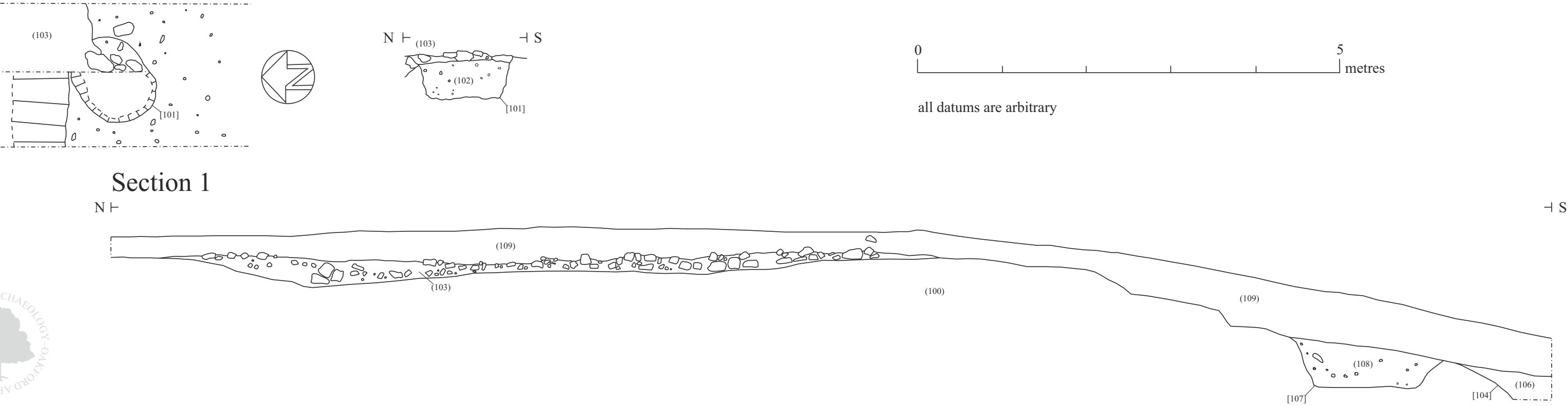
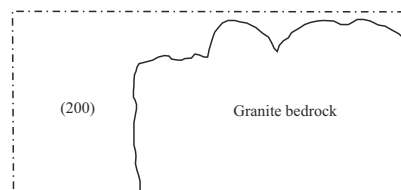
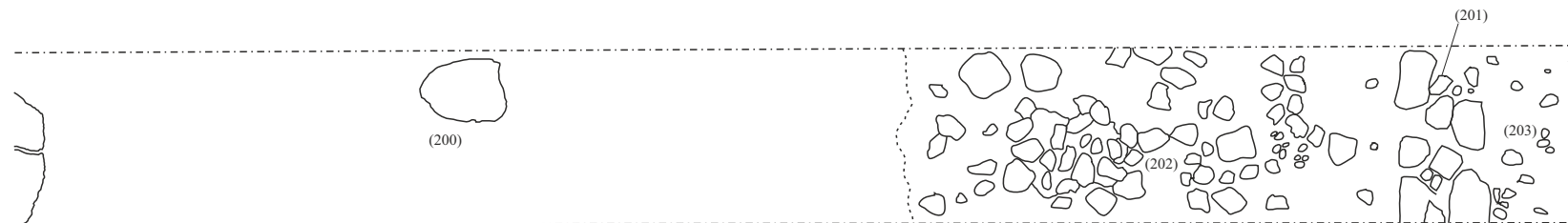


Fig. 9 Plans and sections Trench 1.

Trench 2

Plan 1



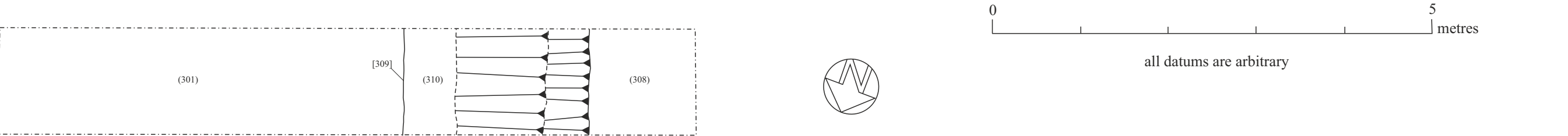
all datums are arbitrary



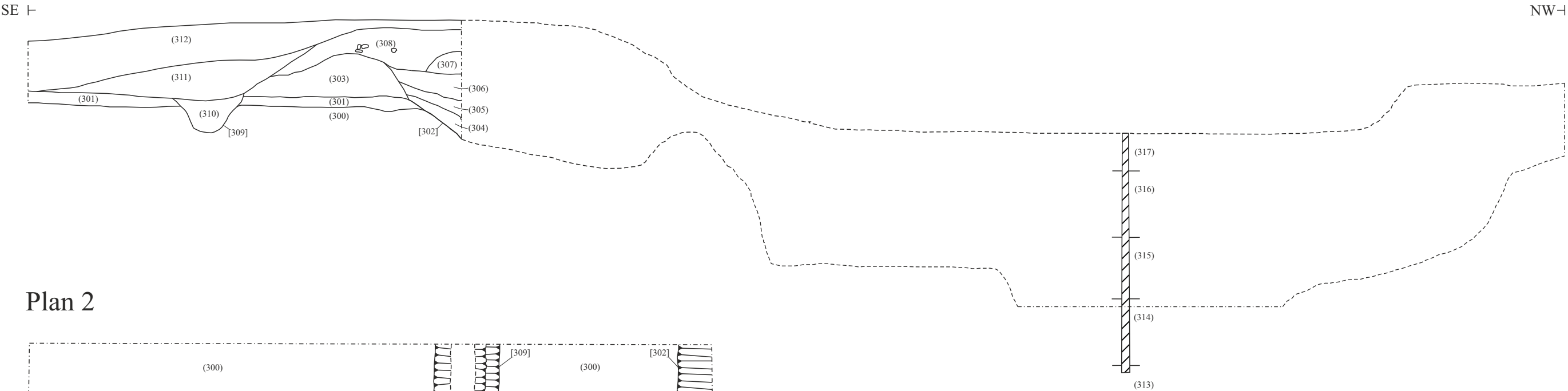
Fig. 10 Plan Trench 2.

Trench 3

Plan 1



Section 1



Plan 2

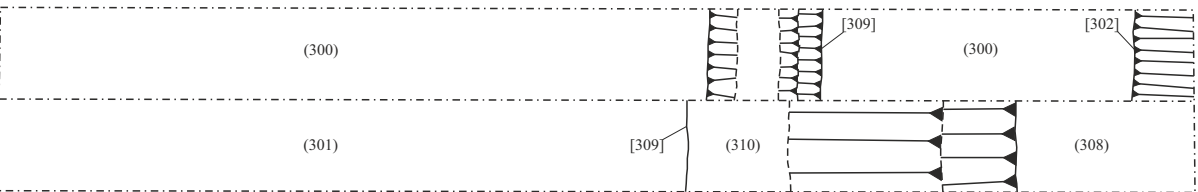


Fig. 11 Plan and section Trench 3.

Trench 4

Plan

0 1 2 3 4 5 metres

all datums are arbitrary

Sections

Trench 5

Section

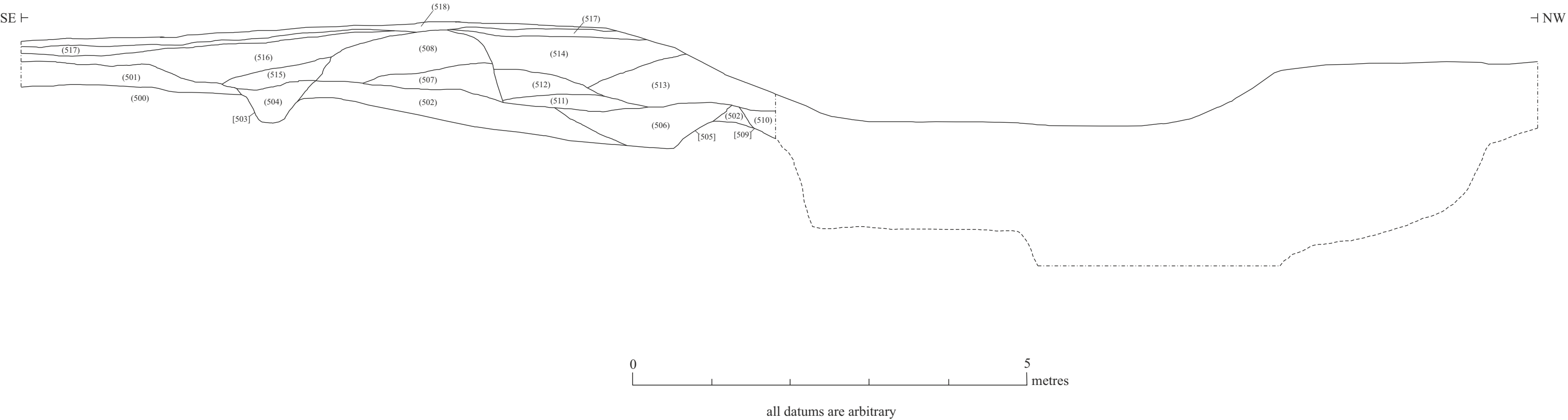


Fig. 13 Section Trench 5.

Trench 7

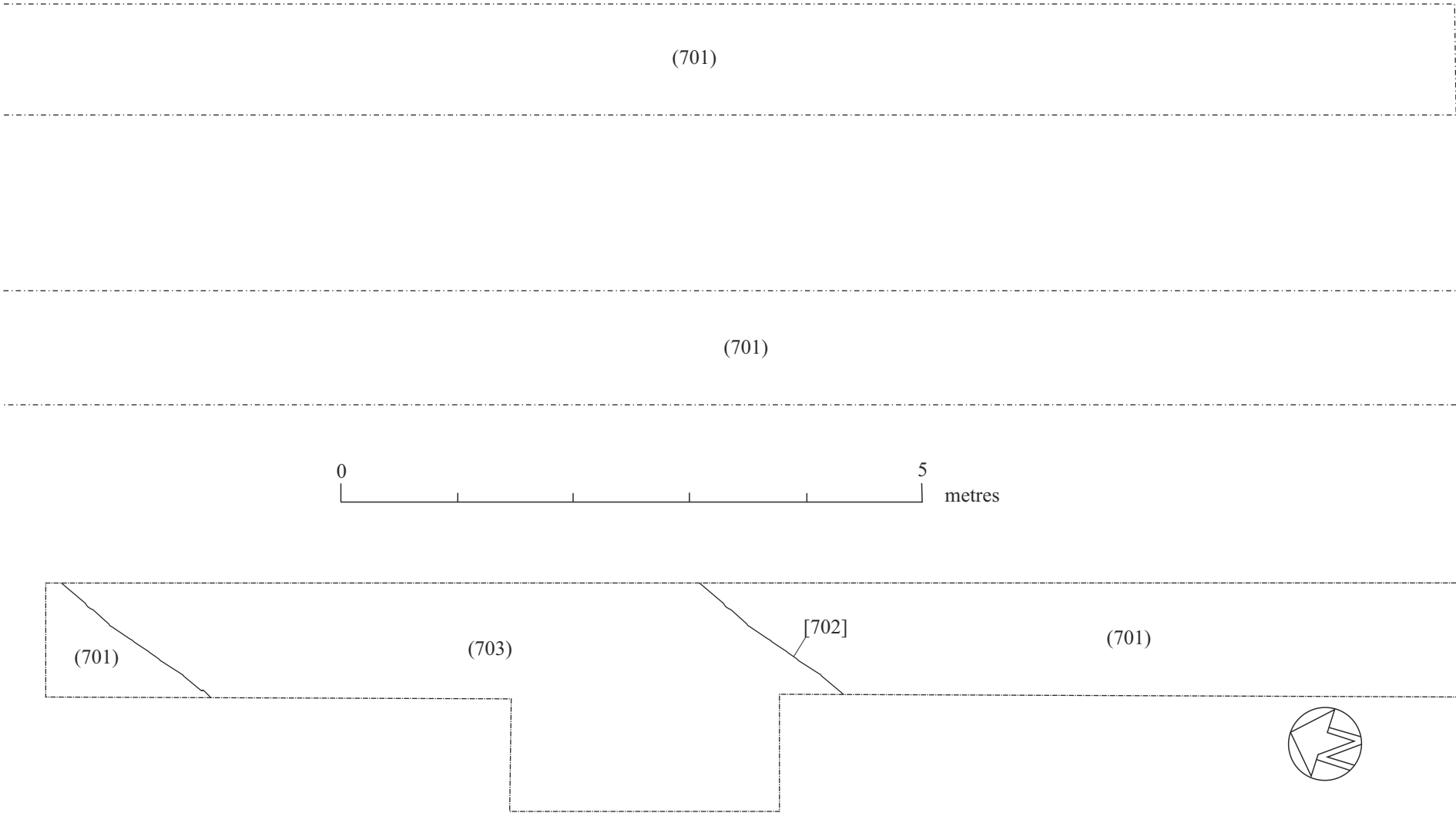


Fig. 14 Plan Trench 7.

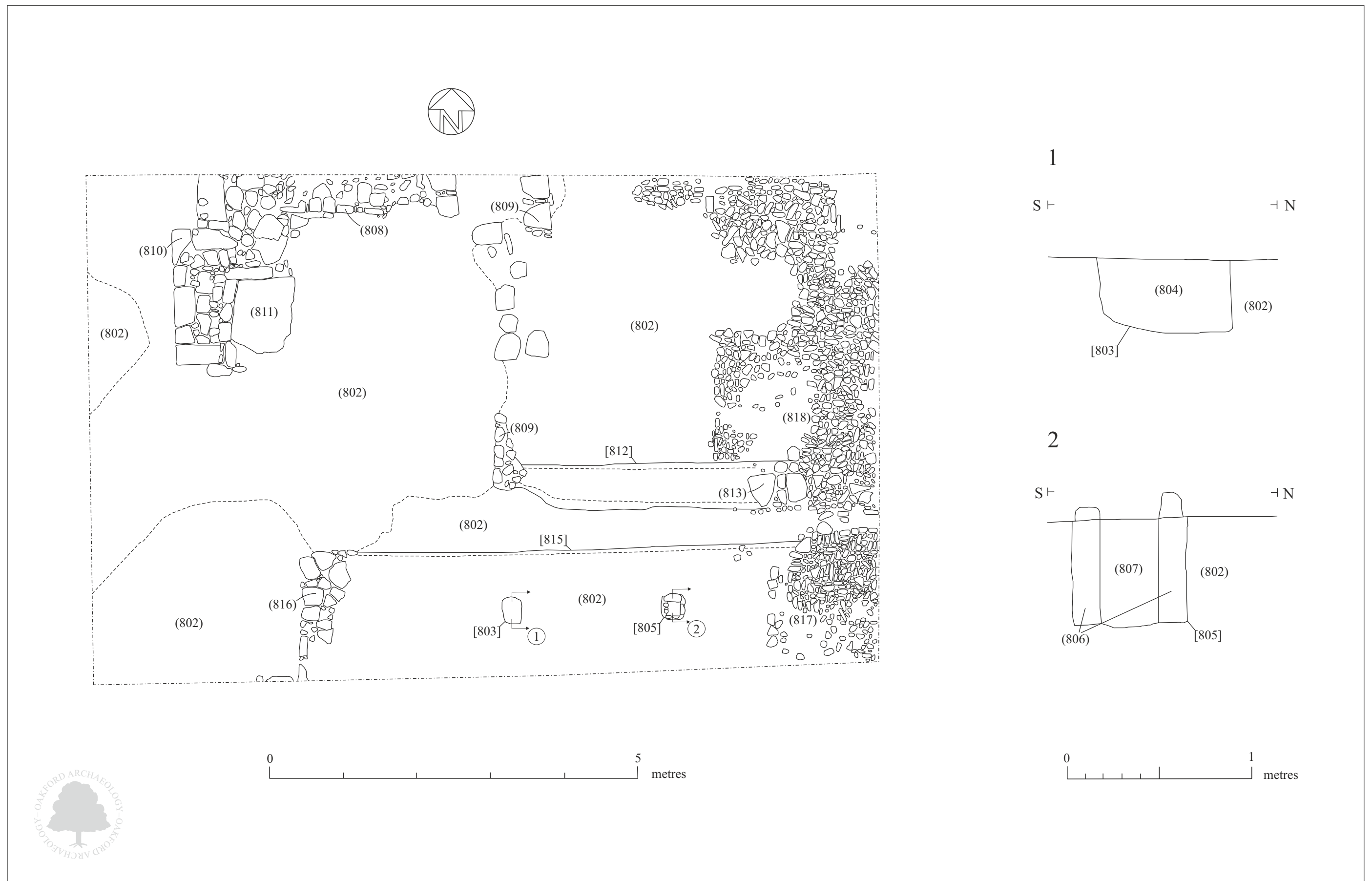


Fig. 15 Plan and sections Trench 8.

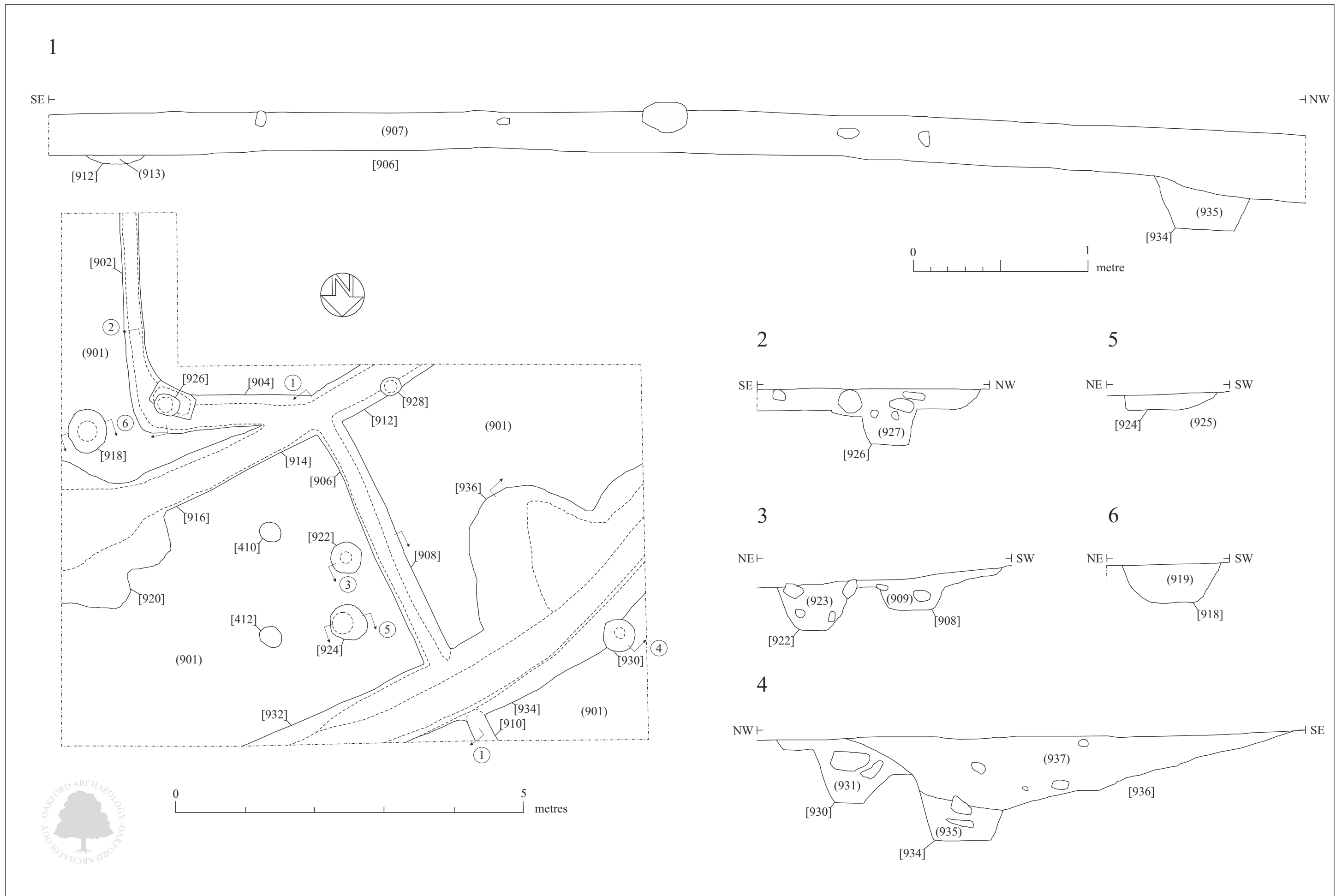


Fig. 16 Plan and sections Trench 9.

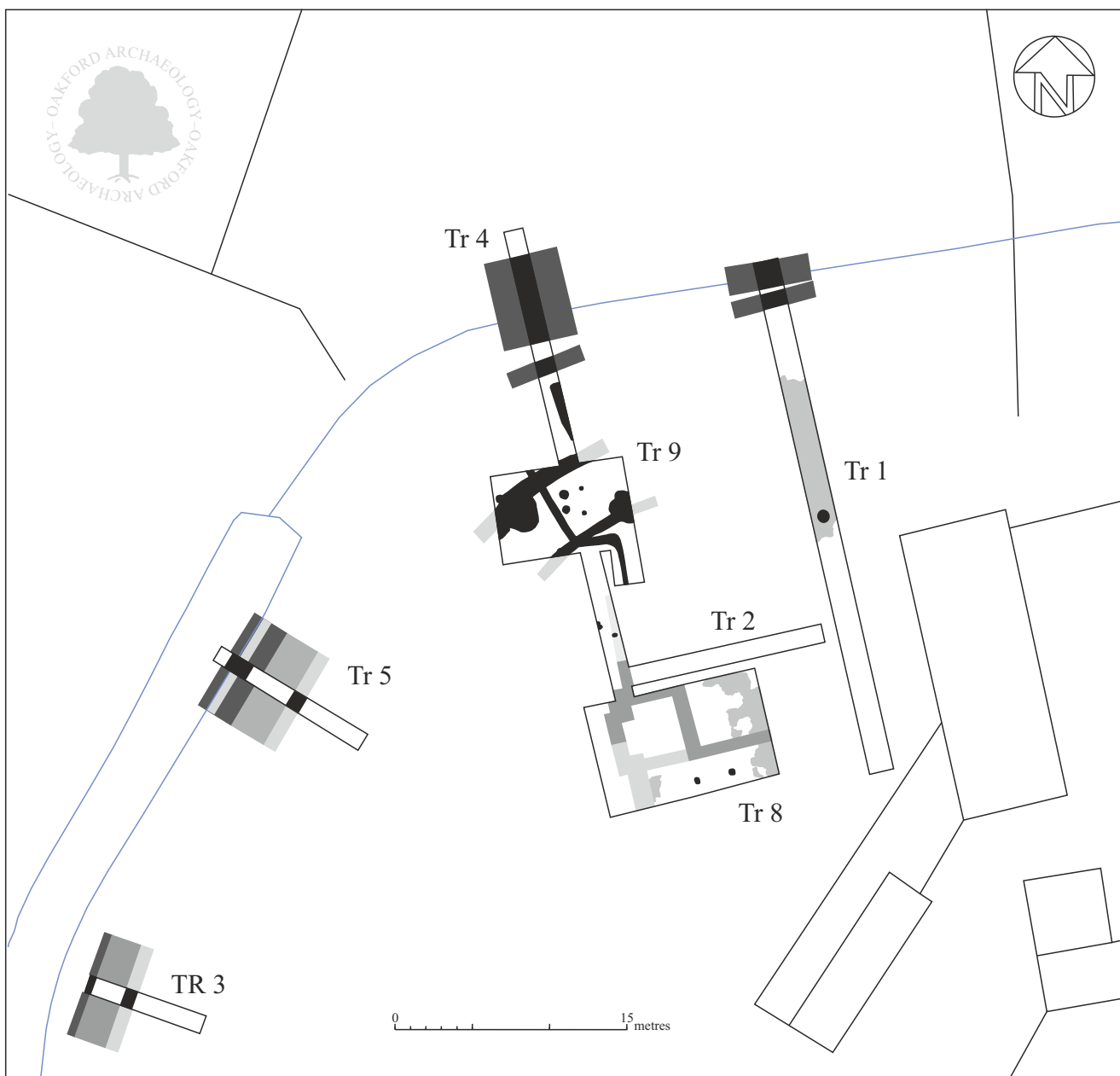


Fig. 17 Trench plan showing principal features identified.

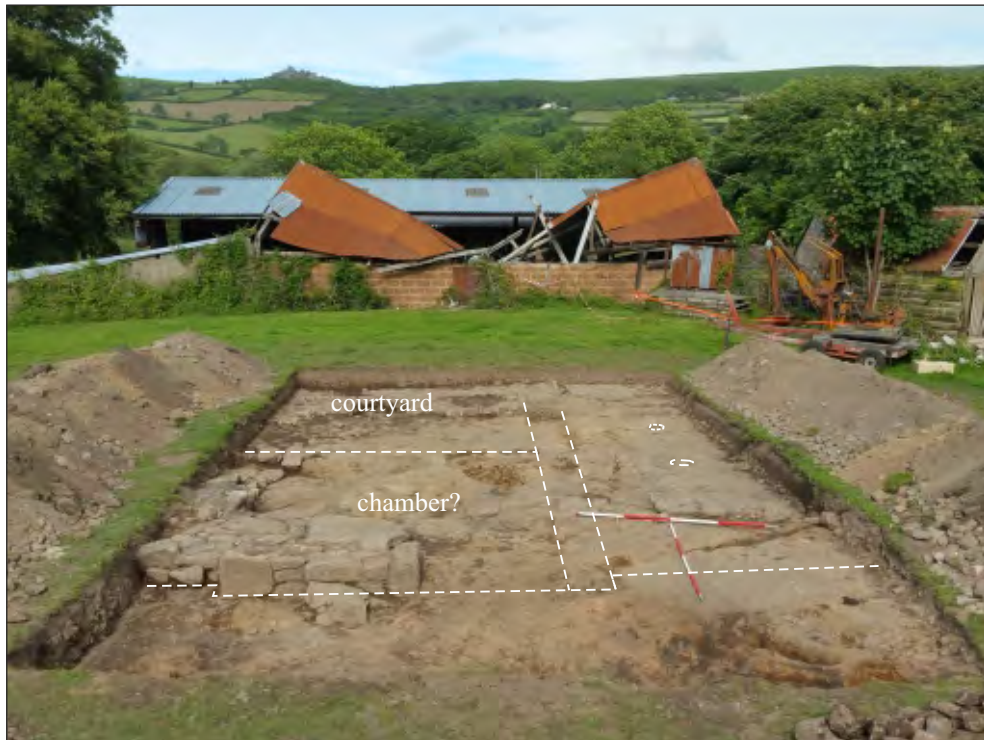


Fig. 1 General view of Trench 8 showing suggested layout of east-west range (right), chamber with fireplace (bottom left) and external courtyard (top left). 2m scales. Looking west.



Fig. 2 General view of Trench 8 showing suggested layout of east-west range (left), chamber with fireplace (top right) and external courtyard (front right). 2m scales. Looking west.



Pl. 3 General view of Trench 9 showing building 1. 2m scales. Looking northeast.



Pl. 4 General view of Trench 9 showing building 2. 2m scales. Looking northwest.



Fig. 5 Section through post-trench [934] and later disturbance [936]. 1m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 6 Section through post-trench [902] and posthole [926]. 0.5m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 7 Section through posthole [922] and post-trench [908]. 0.5m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 8 Section through posthole [918]. 0.5m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 9 Section through posthole [930]. 0.25m scale.
Looking northeast.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS BY TRENCH

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0.5m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
101	0.5-0.9m	Roughly circular feature	Cut of pit
102	0.5-0.9m	Dark brown silty clay	Fill of pit [102]
103	0.35-0.5m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
104	0.5-0.95m	Curvilinear feature	Cut of Moat
105	0.5-0.95m	Mid to dark brown silty loam	Fill of Moat [104]
106	0.5-0.95m	Mid brown silty loam	Fill of Moat [104]
107	0.65-1.15m	E-W aligned linear	Robber trench
108	0.65-1.15m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of Robber trench [107]
109	0-0.65m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
200	0.5m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
201	0.35m+	N-S aligned wall footing	Wall
202	0.35m+	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
203	0.35m+	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
204	0-0.5m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
300	1m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
301	0.9-1m	Mid brown silty loam	Buried soil
302	0.65-1.4m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of Ditch
303	0.5-0.85m	Mid yellowish brown silty loam	Earth bank
304	0.9-1.4m	mid greyish brown clay	Fill of ditch [302]
305	0.7-1.2m	light yellow clay	Earth bank
306	0.6-0.9m	light to mid-yellowish grey clay	Earth bank
307	0.48-0.73m	mid brown loamy clay	Earth bank
308	0.2-0.5m	light yellowish brown silty loam	Earth bank
309	0.88-1.24m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
310	0.88-1.24m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [309]
311	0.42-0.88m	Dark brown silty loam	eroded bank material
312	0-0.4m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
313	2.75m+	Mid to dark grey clay	Fill of Moat
314	1.9-2.75m	Mid grey clay	Fill of Moat
315	1.15-1.90m	light to mid-grey clay	Fill of Moat
316	0.4-1.15m	dark orange silty loam	Fill of Moat
317	0-0.4m	dark brown silty loam	Fill of Moat

Table 4: Trench 4

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
400	0-0.32m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
401	0.32-0.5m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
402	0.55-0.75m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
403	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
404	0.75-0.94m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
405	0.75-0.94m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [404]
406	0.75-0.91m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
407	0.75-0.91m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [406]
408	0.75-0.96m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
409	0.75-0.96m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [408]
410	0.3-0.5m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
411	0.3-0.5m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [410]
412	0.32-0.46m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
413	0.32-0.46m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [412]
414	0.34-0.48m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
415	0.34-0.48m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [414]
416	0.5m+	Mid yellow brown growan and granite	Natural subsoil
417	0.5-0.71m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
418	0.5-0.71m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [417]
419	0.5-0.85m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench/ditch
420	0.5-0.85m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench/ditch [419]
421	0.4-1.15m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of ditch
422	0.65-1.15m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of ditch [421]
423	0.65-1m	Dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of ditch [421]
424	0.4-0.85m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of ditch [421]
425	0.1-2.1m+	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of Moat
426	0.15-1.25m	Dark grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
427	0.15-2.1m+	Dark grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
428	0.5-1.75m	Dark grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
429	0.2-0.75m	Dark brown grey silty clay	Fill of Moat [425]
430	0.2-1.25m	Mid to dark brownish grey silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
431	0.7-1.15m	Mid to dark brownish grey silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
432	0.95-1.5m	Mid brownish grey silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
433	0.1-1.25m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Fill of Moat [425]
434	0.6-0.75m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
435	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
436	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
437	0.2m	Paving slab	Floor

Table 5: Trench 5

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
500	0.65m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
501	0.25-0.65m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Buried soil
502	0.75-1.6m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Buried soil
503	0.7-1.1m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
504	0.7-1.1m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [503]
505	0.95-1.55m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of ditch
506	0.95-1.55m	Mid grey gleyed clay	Fill of ditch [505]
507	0.5-1m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
508	0.25-0.8m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
509	0.6-0.95m	NE-SW aligned linear	Cut of Moat
510	0.6-0.95m	Mid to dark grey gleyed clay	Fill of moat [509]
511	0.9-1.1m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
512	0.6-0.95m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Earth bank
513	0.35-1m	Light greyish yellow clay	Earth bank
514	0.1-0.8m	Light greyish yellow clay	Earth bank
515	0.35-0.75m	Dark brown silty loam	eroded bank material
516	0.05-0.7m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	eroded bank material
517	0.1-0.18m	Mid reddish brown silty loam	Subsoil
518	0-0.1m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil

Table 6: Trench 6

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
600	0-0.32m	Mid brown silty loam	Topsoil
601	0.32-0.5m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
602	0.2m	Wall foundation	Wall
603	0.5-0.6m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
604	0.6m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil

Table 7: Trench 7

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
700	0-0.3m	Mid to dark brown black peaty loam	Topsoil
701	0.3m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
702	0.3-1m+	NE-SW aligned linear	Palaeochannel
703	0.3-1m	Mid to dark brown black peaty loam	Fill of palaeochannel [702]
704	1m+	Mid greyish blue gleyed clay	Fill of palaeochannel [702]

Table 8: Trench 8

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
800	0-0.35m	Mid to dark brown black peaty loam	Topsoil
801	0.35-0.45m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Demolition deposit
802	0.45m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
803	0.55-0.95m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
804	0.55-0.95m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [803]
805	0-55-1.13m	Circular feature	Cut of posthole
806	0-55-1.13m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [805]
807	0-55-1.13m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [805]
808	0.2-0.55m	E-W aligned wall	Wall foundation
809	0.28-0.55m	N-S aligned wall	Wall foundation
810	0.2-0.55m	N-S aligned wall	Wall foundation
811	0.4-0.55m	Granite slab	Hearth stone
812	0.55-0.67m	E-W aligned linear	Cut of robber trench
813	0.45-0.67m	E-W aligned wall	Wall foundation
814	0.55-0.67m	Mid to dark reddish brown silty loam	Fill of robber trench [812]
815	0.55-0.66m	E-W aligned cut	Terracing
816	0.5m+	Granite surface	Surface
817	0.51m+	Cobbled surface	Surface
818	0.48m+	Cobbled surface	Surface

Table 9: Trench 9

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
900	0-0.3m	Mid to dark brown black peaty loam	Topsoil
901	0.3m+	Mid yellow brown growan	Natural subsoil
902	0.3-0.55m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
903	0.3-0.55m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [902]
904	0.3-0.55m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
905	0.3-0.55m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [904]
906	0.3-0.55m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
907	0.3-0.55m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [906]
908	0.3-0.55m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
909	0.3-0.55m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [908]
910	0.4-0.65m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
911	0.4-0.65m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [910]
912	0.3-0.59m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
913	0.3-0.59m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [912]
914	0.3-0.59m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
915	0.3-0.59m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [914]
916	0.3-0.59m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
917	0.3-0.59m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [916]
918	0.3-0.58m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of posthole
919	0.3-0.58m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Cut of posthole [918]
920	0.3-0.6m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of disturbance
921	0.3-0.6m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of disturbance [920]
922	0.3-0.57m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of posthole
923	0.3-0.57m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [922]
924	0.3-0.39m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of posthole
925	0.3-0.39m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [924]
926	0.3-0.6m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of posthole
927	0.3-0.6m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [926]
928	0.3-0.5m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of posthole
929	0.3-0.5m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [928]
930	0.4-0.75m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of posthole
931	0.4-0.75m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of posthole [930]
932	0.4-1m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
933	0.4-1m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [932]
934	0.4-1m	N-S aligned linear	Cut of post-trench
935	0.4-1m	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of post-trench [934]
936	0.4-0.82	N-S aligned linear	Cut of disturbance
937	0.4-0.82	mid-reddish brown silty loam	Fill of disturbance [936]

APPENDIX 2: FINDS QUANTIFICATION

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
103			5	2 sherds Totnes-type unglazed pottery (13 th -14 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type glazed pottery (15 th -16 th century); 1 sherd undiagnostic pottery (poss. 15 th century); 1 sherd undiagnostic pottery (post-medieval).
109			575	1 lithics struck flake chert prob. Neolithic; 38 sherds Totnes-type unglazed (13 th -14 th century); 2 sherds decorated Valencian Lustre ware (15 th century); 34 sherds Totnes-type unglazed (15 th -16 th century); 3 sherds Totnes-type unglazed ridge tile (15 th -16 th century); 15 sherds sandy ware source unknown (medieval); 9 sherds pottery (medieval); 1 sherd Totnes-type bowl type 2A flared (17 th century); 2 sherds Frechen stoneware (16 th -17 th century); 3 sherds Raeren stoneware (16 th -17 th century); 1 sherd Westerwald stoneware (17 th century); 2 sherds Lambeth delft (early 17 th century); 1 sherd Staffordshire/Bristol yellow slipware yellow brown trails posset pot (17 th century); 302 sherds transfer decorated white earthenware (post-1770-19 th century); 18 sherds South Somerset coarseware (18 th century); 7 sherds South Devon white ware (18 th century); 1 sherd Nottingham white stoneware (18 th century); 33 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (post-medieval); 8 sherds English stoneware (19 th century); 25 sherds undiagnostic coarseware (19 th century); 58 clay pipe stems (19 th century); 8 clay pipe bowls (19 th century); 2 undiagnostic brick fragments; 52 Fe fragments; 10 sherds 18 th -19 th century bottle glass; 1 Cu Alloy button.
204			232	16 sherds Totnes-type undecorated (13 th -14 th century); 1 sherd sandy redware (14 th -15 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type undecorated (15 th -16 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type ridge tile (15 th -16 th century); 1 sherd Frechen stoneware Bellarmine jug (17 th -18 th century); 161 sherds transfer decorated white earthenware (post-1770-19 th century); 4 sherds Devon white ware (18 th century); 10 sherds South Somerset coarseware with trailed slip decoration (18 th century); 1 sherd Jackfield-type ware (18 th century); 12 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 1 type 3 bowl rest type 2 jugs (post-medieval); 1 sherd redware source unknown (19 th century); 1 sherd undiagnostic stoneware (19 th century); 2 sherds white refined earthenware (19 th century); 1 sherd flowerpot (20 th century); 2 sherds undiagnostic grey ware; 15 clay pipe stems (19 th century); 2 undiagnostic brick fragments; 25 Fe fragments; 9 sherds of 17 th -18 th century bottle glass.
310	309	13 th -14 th	4	North French, Costrel, exterior green glaze (13 th -14 th century).
400			120	1 sherd Upper Greensand derived (mid-10 th -early 13 th century); 8 sherds Saintonge unglazed 1 vessel (1250-1450); 13 sherds Totnes-type hand-made unglazed 2 vessels 1 jug (13 th -14 th century – not before 1250); 1 sherd South Somerset red ware (medieval); 3 sherds Totnes-type wheelthrown (15 th century); 1 tile flat with chamfered sides probably oven tile slightly wedge shaped (15 th -16 th century); 1 complex glazing scheme c.f. Berry Pomeroy (late 16 th -early 17 th century); 16 sherds Totnes-type unglazed coarseware (1500-1750); Totnes-type ridge tile unglazed undecorated 1 with incised line (1500-1750); 3 sherds red ware source unknown (16 th -17 th century); 20 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 10 vessels including 1 large jar (1500-1800); 3 sherds North Devon sgraffito and slipware 2 vessels (late 17 th -early 18 th century); 3sherds Delft ware 1 vessel (1670-1760); 2 flakes polychrome painted porcelain scrap from ornament (18 th century); 1 sherd South Somerset slip and copper green (18 th century); 1 sherd Bristol Staffordshire yellow slipware (18 th century); 4 sherds South Somerset red ware (18 th -early 19 th century); 13 sherds red ware source unknown (18 th -19 th century); 1 sherd Agate ware (mid-18 th century); 3 sherds stoneware undiagnostic (late 18 th -19 th century); 5 sherds Bovey Tracey white ware (late 18 th century); 1 early apothecary bottle (18 th -19 th century); 13 clay pipe stems (late 18 th -19 th century); 1 brick fragment (19 th century); 5 sherds English green bottle glass 1 onion bottle base (19 th century).

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
401			52	1 flint flake retouched as a scraper Neolithic; 4 sherds Totnes-type hand-made unglazed 3 vessels 1 thumbled base; 1 white painted base (13 th -14 th century); 13 sherds Totnes-type ridge tile (1500-1750); 8 sherds Totnes-type unglazed 1 cup 3 bowls (1500-1750); 4 sherds Totnes-type unglazed (1500-1700); 10 sherds Staffordshire white ware (19 th century); 2 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (17 th century); 9 sherds South Somerset red ware (17 th -18 th century); 1 clay pipe stem bowl plain (18 th century); 1 clay pipe stem (late 18 th -early 19 th century); Slate South Devon roofing slate – Norton (South Hams) and Garington (Ashburton) before 18 th century.
402		18 th century		5 sherds North Devon gravel tempered 2 vessels (17 th -18 th century); 1 sherd stained Delft ware (18 th century).
407	406	14 th -15 th century		1 sherd Totnes-type handmade 1 vessel (13 th -mid-15 th century); 2 sherds Totnes-type ridge tile unglazed undecorated (14 th -15 th century).
518			63	2 sherds Upper Greensand derived (mid-10 th -early 13 th century); 7 sherds Totnes-type ridge tile (15 th -17 th century); 4 sherds Totnes-type undecorated (15 th -18 th century); 12 sherds red ware (18 th -19 th century); 26 sherds Staffordshire white ware including transfer print and shell edge ware (late 18 th -19 th century); 1 sherd Basalt ware (19 th century); 2 sherds Brown stain ware (19 th century); 7 Fe nails, 1 fragment early window glass; 1 Cu Alloy coin?
600			144	3 flints including 1 rejuvenated core and two flakes Neolithic; 4 sherds Totnes-type hand-made unglazed (13 th -14 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type ridge tile crest with high peak and scrape marks (14 th -15 th century); 9 sherds early window glass (late 16 th -17 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type unglazed wheelthrown (15 th -17 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type ridge tile (14 th -early 18 th century); 8 sherds Totnes-type unglazed including 1 tripod pot (1500-1750); 4 sherds thin window glass (late 16 th -17 th century); 10 sherds North Devon gravel tempered (17 th century); 1 sherd North Devon sgraffito (late 17 th -18 th century); 8 sherds English green bottle glass including 1 thick base onion bottle (1680-1730) and 2 curved shaft and globe bottles (late 17 th century); 68 sherds Staffordshire white ware including transfer print, hand painted pearl ware and cream ware (late 18 th -19 th century); 8 sherds South Somerset red ware (17 th -18 th century); 1 sherd Delft ware (18 th century); 7 sherds Staffordshire stoneware (18 th -19 th century); 1 sherd red ware unknown location (19 th century); 1 sherd wine glass (19 th century); 7 clay pipe stems including 1 with reeded decoration RC (Richard Chapple?) (1800-1830) 2 late 17 th -early 18 th century rest 19 th century; 1 sherd glass (19 th century).
601			8	1 sherd Totnes-type undecorated (14 th -15 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type undecorated (16 th -17 th century); 1 sherd North Devon gravel tempered 1 vessel probably jug possibly slip and sgraffito (17 th century); 3 sherds South Somerset trailed slipware 1 vessel 1 dish (18 th century); 1 sherd undiagnostic stoneware (19 th century); 1 sherd glass (19 th century).
800			1246	5 flints including 1 beach pebble with cortex; 1 sherd Exeter fabric 40 spout (1250-1450); 11 sherds Totnes-type thin handmade (late 13 th -mid-15 th century); 11 sherds North Devon gravel tempered including 1 large storage jar with reinforced rim, 2 jugs, 2 bottles, 1 tankard, 1 jug rim and 1 closed cooking vessel (pre-1500); 34 sherds Totnes-type ridgetile including 2 with high peaks (late 14 th -15 th century) and 3 sherds with incised lines (15 th -16 th century) c.f. Buckfast Abbey; 99 sherds Totnes-type unglazed including 6 bowls, 1 tripod handle and 1 spigott jug (1500-1700); 13 sherds North Devon unglazed thinner section (15 th -17 th century); 1 sherd Frechen or Cologne stoneware (1520-1650); 2 sherds continental slipware ?German; 3 sherds North Devon calcareous ware (16 th century); 2 sherds Raeren stoneware including 2 cups (early 16 th century); 2 sherds Raeren stoneware including 1 panel jug with traces of

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
				impressed rouletting ornament on the foot and shoulder (1580-1610); 5 sherds North Devon sgraffito including 1 floral dish ?tulips and 1 geometric dish (1650-1710); 11 sherds Bristol-Staffordshire brown slipware including 1 cup with incised decoration (1680-1730); 5 sherds Bristol-Staffordshire yellow slipware (1670-1730); 1 sherd Hampshire Border ware (late 17 th -early 18 th century); 8 sherds of North Devon plain slipware including 1 cup (late 17 th -early 18 th century); 2 sherds Delft ware ?English (17 th -early 18 th century); 4 sherds Bovet Tracey whiteware (18 th century); 34 sherds lead glazed local whiteware (18 th century); 20 sherds South Somerset trailed slipware and sgraffito including 1 chamber pot and 1 slipware cup (18 th century); 18 sherds English stoneware (18 th -19 th century); 127 sherds miscellaneous redware (18 th -19 th century); 679 sherds miscellaneous white wares including transfer print, hand painted pearl ware, mocca ware and basalt ware (late 18 th -19 th century); 67 clay pipe stems (17 th -19 th century); 8 clay pipe bowls including 2 with flat heels (17 th century), 1 complete (mid-18 th century) and 2 fragmentary (1800-1830); 21 sherds English Green Bottle Glass (1660-1800) including 1 1720 base; 26 sherds clear glass including 1 pharmaceutical bottle (18 th century); 19 sherds window glass (16 th -early 17 th century) diamond shaped with grozed edges, heavily denatured; 1 lead weight or plum bob; 1 pewter handle; 4 buttons.
801			24	15 fragments silvery green Garington roofing slate including 1 with 3 peg holes - 21mm thick and 205mm in length (12 th -13 th century); 9 fragments dark grey Norton.
900				5 sherds Totnes-type undecorated (14 th -15 th century); 1 floor-tile fragment sandy fabric with spot of very dark green glaze (15 th -16 th century); 2 sherds Raeren stoneware drinking vessel (1480-1550); 9 sherds Totnes-type ridgetile including 1 with high peak (late 14 th -15 th century); 9 sherds Totnes-type undecorated (16 th -17 th century); 17 sherds North Devon gravel tempered and gravel free including 1 sooted bowl, 1 tankard and 1 jug (1500-1800); 1 sherd Frechen stoneware cup (1550-1620); 8 sherds Bovey Tracy whiteware (18 th century); 1 lead window came; 11 sherds South Somerset coarseware (18 th century), 86 sherds miscellaneous white wares including transfer print (19 th century); 14 clay pipe stems (18 th -19 th century).
903	902		1	1 sherd Totnes-type wheelthrown (14 th -15 th century).
905	904		1	1 sherd glass (19 th -20 th century).
913	912		2	1 sherd Totnes-type (14 th -15 th century); 1 half-penny 1921 George V - obverse features the bare head of King George V facing left with the surrounding legend 'GEORGIVS V DEI GRA:BRITT:OMN:REX FID:DEF:IND:IMP'. The reverse shows Britannia seated facing right, wearing a helmet, holding a trident, hand resting on a shield.
915	914		3	2 sherds Totnes-type (15 th century); 1 fragment South Devon roofing slate.
917	916		5	2 sherds Totnes-type including 1 jug (14 th -15 th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type ridgetile (14 th -17 th century); 1 Georgian copper farthing; 1 sherd Staffordshire-type pearl and tortoise shell ware (1820).
927	926			1 fragment of ?burnt clay
929	929		1	1 sherd Totnes-type (14th-15th century).
935	934		5	1 sherd Upper Greensand derived (mid-10 th -early 13 th century); 2 sherds Totnes-type ridgetile (14 th -17 th century); 2 fragments of ?burnt clay.

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Notes
937	936		10	7 sherds Totnes-type (14th-15th century); 1 sherd Totnes-type ridgetile (14 th -17 th century); 1 floor-tile fragment sandy fabric similar to (900) (15 th -16 th century); 1 sherd of fine ware (16 th -17 th century).

Appendix 3: Method statement

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for The Dartmoor National Park Authority and The Glebe Farm Partnership to describe the methodology to be used during an archaeological community excavation at North Hall, Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Devon (SX 7184 7690). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' for archaeological work required by the Dartmoor National Park Authority.
- 1.2 The site is located to the north of the church of St Pancras and the village green, and is defined by a large infilled moat and earthen bank with a 'raised' central platform.
- 1.3 The site was discovered as a result of extensive documentary research carried out by Peter Rennells and the Widecombe History Group being reported to the DNPA. An initial geophysical survey was carried out by Dr Penny Cunningham (University of Exeter), with a further resistivity survey undertaken by Ross Dean (Substrata 2011). Evidence for a possible medieval building and associated moat were recorded on the main site, while a large concentration of linear and other anomaly patterns was identified in the field to the north of the site.
- 1.4 Under the direction of the Dartmoor National Park Authority it was decided in 2012 to excavate a preliminary series of targeted trenches (Trench 1-3) to establish the nature of the archaeological remains. The trenching established that the site contained remnants of earthen defences enclosing a heavily robbed stone building. In addition, sherds of medieval coarsewares, dating to the 13th-15th century were recovered, as well as two sherds of 'Valencian Lustre Ware', a high status, good quality pottery from western Spain. This confirmed that the site was the location of the 'lost' manor of Widecombe.
- 1.5 The 2015 season expanded on the work undertaken in 2012 and a further four trenches were excavated (Trench 4-7). These provided further insight into the multi-phase defences surrounding the site and the nature and phasing of the buildings present within the defensive circuit. The 2015 season also included the reopening of a trench in the field to the north of the site which was meant to have been investigated in 2012 but had to be abandoned following severe weather. Excavation revealed the total absence of medieval or earlier activity and identified instead the presence of a substantial palaeochannel at the northern end.
- 1.6 In light of these findings it was decided to focus on two large open areas (Trench 8-9) in 2016. These would further help with understanding the timber buildings along the northern circuit and recover the plan of the stone building identified at the centre of the site

2. AIMS

- 2.1 The objectives of the project are to recover the ground plan and building sequence of the moated manor and to ascertain the presence or absence of an

early 13th century timber phase. Trial trenching has established the presence of a moat marking the northwest and southwest limit of the complex and further work will need to be undertaken to establish the remaining circuit of the inner court, the location of the inner gatehouse and the presence of any structures within the outer curia and barton, either through further excavation and/or geophysical surveys.

2.2 The aims of the excavations are:

- To address a set of research driven objectives concerned with enhancing our knowledge of the site during the medieval period and its hinterland;
- To provide a properly managed training excavation open to the local community, archaeology students and interested amateurs, both local and international;
- To provide an opportunity for community archaeology through excavation, organised site tours, talks and educational activities for local children and primary schools.

2.3 The aims of the post-excavation work will be:

- To integrate all phases of work and re-assess the dating of the stratigraphic sequence, with specific reference to the pottery;
- The structures and features identified at North Hall will have to be placed in their archaeological and architectural context, where possible, by comparing them to contemporary castle, palace and manorial structures in plan, elevation and architectural detail;
- To examine the historical context for the construction and development of the manor house at North Hall and the later post-medieval development of the site;
- To assess the significance of North Hall as a manorial estate centre at Widecombe;
- Reassess the pottery for the light it might shed on the supply of ceramics in medieval Devon, with particular reference to comparison with Exeter;
- To examine the status and economy of the site in light of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence in comparison with other sites in the region and beyond.

3. GENERAL PROJECT METHODS

3.1 All archaeological deposits will be stratigraphically excavated by hand down to natural subsoil in the following manner:

- all deposits will be excavated and recorded by hand;
- some less significant and more bulky deposits may be carefully removed by machine with a toothless grading bucket, under direct archaeological supervision and with prior agreement of the DNPA;
- fills of cut features will be excavated by hand as follows: pits (50 and then 100%), postholes (50 and then 100%), stakeholes (100%), wells (to be determined on site depending on depth and site conditions), linears (20%, targeted on interrelationships, terminals, etc. and then 100%);
- Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

- 3.2 If present, environmental deposits will be assessed on site, on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survive, these would be processed by Geoflow using the EH Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (EH CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.
- 3.3 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.
- 3.4 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.5 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the projects is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.
- 3.6 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below). The client will be fully briefed and consulted if there is a requirement to submit material for specialist research.
- 3.7 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:
- standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
 - colour digital photography;

- survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
- labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the DNPA on completion of the seasons site work and a summary report will be produced within 12 months of the date of completion of the archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report and will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the excavations and the distribution of archaeological features within them;
- copies of any relevant historic maps;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate.

5.3 One .pdf copy of the summary report will be distributed to the DNPA on completion of sitework within the timescale above. A .pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) with the permission of the landowner upon completion of the project, while the artefactual element will be deposited with either the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (ref. number *pending*) or Torbay Museum. Any artefacts not taken by the RAMM or Torbay Museum will be offered to the landowner and the Widecombe History Group before being discarded. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the RAMM or Torbay Museum and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify the DNPA upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of any material (finds) archive with the RAMM or Torbay Museum.

- 5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within 12 months of the completion of each phase of site work.
- 5.6 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DNPA. OA, on behalf of the DNPA, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the DNPA. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed.
6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES
- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.
7. COPYRIGHT
- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.
8. PROJECT ORGANISATION
- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Health & Safety

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;
Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;
Building specialist: Richard Parker;
Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;
Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);
Environmental data: Hayley McParland (Historic England), Geoflow;
Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);
Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);
Human remains: Charlotte Coles;
Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);
Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;
Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);
Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);
Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;
Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);
Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);
Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates;
Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team