

Excavation and Evaluation at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



for
The Coombe Estate

CA Project: 889015

CA Report: 18203

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Meadow View Nursery
Location:	Honiton, Devon
NGR:	314074 099657
Type:	Excavation
Date:	November 8-22, 2017
Planning Reference:	17/1053/MFUL
Location of archive:	Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter
Accession Number:	reference RAMM 17/60
Site Code:	HMV17

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November, 2017, at the request of the Combe Estate, at the Meadow View Nursery site, Honiton. Two areas, respectively of 470m² and 340m², were excavated across the larger development area. Excavation targeted archaeological features identified by evaluation. Area 1, located within the north-west corner of the site, investigated a length of Middle and Late Bronze Age enclosure ditch. Most of this enclosure, situated immediately to the north-west, had been extensively investigated in 1996. The 2018 excavation revealed the south-eastern enclosure entrance, which had been predicted by an earlier geophysical survey. The entrance gap was flanked by ditch terminals, each associated with matching alignments of post settings which appeared to represent a sequence of gate structures. A discrete group of post or stake-holes on the south-eastern, external side of the entrance may represent associated fence-lines. The Bronze Age enclosure ditch cut an earlier, but undated, shallow ditch, of unknown function. This did not extend south of the enclosure ditch, although its projected course may be continued by two postholes on this side.

Area 2, located in the south-west corner of the site, contained a ring gully, enclosing a number of pits and postholes, which collectively represented a roundhouse of Middle/Late Iron Age date. Speculative interpretation of postholes and other features within, and around, this gully suggests that it may have replaced an earlier circular-plan building of comparable size. A small number of Roman pottery sherds from Area 2 appear to have been intrusive.

An initial watching brief, for the excavation of geotechnical test pits across the site, produced no finds or features. This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the evaluation and excavation. It considers the evidence collectively, in its local, regional and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief, and strip, map and sample excavation, were undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, between November 8 and 22, 2017, at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon (centred at NGR: 314074 099657). These investigations were carried out on behalf of the Combe Estate.
- 1.2 East Devon District Council had granted planning permission (ref: 17/1053/MFUL) for the development of a garden centre on the site. Condition 5 of this planning permission specified a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.3 An archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site, undertaken in response to this planning condition (CA 2017), recorded significant below-ground archaeological remains. Stephen Reed, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCCHET), the archaeological advisor to East Devon District Council, subsequently advised that a strip, map and sample (SMS) excavation would be required, in addition to an archaeological watching brief, to be maintained during the course of ground investigation works. The site was visited by Stephen Reed, on November 16, 2017.
- 1.4 The archaeological investigations have been guided by *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5 The site is situated to the west of Honiton, and is bounded by the A30 dual carriageway immediately to the north, by a small yard to the east, and by farmland to the south and west. A stream runs for a short distance along its eastern boundary. The site, formerly a nursery, encloses an area of approximately 0.55ha, and prior to investigation was occupied by gravel-surfaced areas of open ground in the north, and grassland in the south.
- 1.6 The topography of the site is gently undulating, with a downward slope from the southern boundary, situated at an elevation of 92m aOD, to the northern boundary, at an elevation of c. 84m aOD.

- 1.7 The northern part of the site has been subject to extensive truncation. Fieldwork identified a pronounced step in ground level, which ran across the centre of the site, on a north-east/south-west alignment. The section visible along this step indicated that c. 0.4m of topsoil and subsoil had been removed from the northern part of the site, and that underlying natural deposits had been truncated by up to 0.45m.
- 1.8 The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Sidmouth mudstone formation and Keuper Marls, laid down in the Devonian period. This was overlain in places by superficial Head deposits of sand, clay and gravel (BGS 2017). Subsoils generally comprised intermittent deposits of gravelly clay, which appeared to be better drained towards the west.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Archaeological investigation was undertaken immediately north of the site, in 1996, in advance of the construction of the A30 Honiton–Exeter Improvement DBFO scheme (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999a; 1999b). These excavations recorded large finds assemblages and well-preserved environmental remains within a range of later prehistoric and Roman settlement sites, which appeared to be largely concentrated within the lower contours of the valley of the River Otter.

Prehistoric (c.4000- BC – AD 43)

- 2.2 Investigations associated with the 1996-9 A30 road scheme recorded a significant number of finds and sites dating from the Neolithic to the post-medieval periods. These included two rectilinear Neolithic ditched enclosures at Castle Hill, one of which was interpreted as a possible long mortuary enclosure (Butterworth 1999a, 23-6). A number of recorded flint scatters and individual finds of broad Neolithic/Bronze Age date attest to widespread activity across the surrounding area at this time. These include recorded scatters at Honiton Showground (DDHER MDV 72687), and Pomeroy Wood (NGR SY 1312 9934; Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999b, 277-80).
- 2.3 The A30 road scheme investigations recorded a Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosure, defined by a substantial oval ditch, at Hayne Lane, immediately to the north of the Meadow View Nursery site (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). Evidence of two post-built roundhouses was identified within this enclosure, in addition to several four-post structures and a number of pits and hearths (Butterworth 1999c, 92, fig. 39; 93, fig. 40). The projected line of the previously unexcavated, southern part of the enclosure ditch extended into the Meadow View Nursery site, and evaluation identified a

substantial, undated linear feature, which corresponded with the expected location of this part of the enclosure ditch (CA 2017, Trench 1).

- 2.4 Available evidence suggests a pattern of dense settlement activity within the environs of the site by the Middle Bronze Age. At Castle Hill, Fenny Bridges, c. 3km to the south-west (Fig. 1), a Middle Bronze Age enclosed farmstead associated with a large assemblage of Trevisker and Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recorded (Butterworth 1999a, 23). This site was associated with elements of a possibly contemporary co-axial field system. At Patteson's Cross, c. 4.7km to the south-west, a Middle Bronze Age roundhouse was recorded, together with a nearby Later Bronze Age enclosure with a single roundhouse (Butterworth 1999b, 73-7).
- 2.5 Evidence of Early and Middle Iron Age occupation at Blackhorse, c.15 km to the south-west, comprised a single post-built roundhouse, with field boundaries (Butterworth 1999d, 163-76). These features pre-dated a square-ditched enclosure, which contained a single roundhouse. At Langland Lane, c.5 km south-west of the Meadow View Nursery site, a single Middle Iron Age roundhouse and ditched field boundaries were recorded (Fig. 1; Butterworth 1999e, 130-137). Evidence of a more extensive, unenclosed Middle and Late Iron Age settlement was incompletely recorded at Long Range, c. 7km to the south-west, which included a number of roundhouse and four-post structures (Butterworth 1999f, 138-46).

Roman (AD 43-420)

- 2.6 At Pomeroy Wood, (Fig. 1; NGR SY 131993, DHER MDV 62751), a Roman military site dating from c.AD 60 was superseded by an extensive civil settlement, which remained occupied until the fourth century (Grove 1999a, 243-63). Much evidence for earlier Roman-period military activity on this site had been removed by historical developments, including earlier construction phases of the A30 road. In the second century AD, a series of roundhouses were constructed on the site of the military base, and ditched compounds were laid out along the course of the Roman road. Field boundaries or compounds associated with the extensive settlement were also recorded at the neighbouring site of Gittisham Forge (Fig. 1; Grove 1999b, 386-7).
- 2.7 The Pomeroy Wood site was also associated with evidence of ironworking, and scattered finds of slag along the course of the road suggested more extensive metalworking activity (DDHER MDV 61139). Scattered recorded finds of Roman

pottery and CBM, including imported amphora, within the Honiton area suggest widespread settlement activity of this date (DDHER MDV 61107, 61127, 61102).

Medieval

- 2.8 No evidence of early medieval activity has been recorded within the environs of the site, although the neighbouring town of Honiton, and a number of surrounding villages, were recorded by the Domesday Survey (Poulton-Smith 2010). A number of surrounding farmsteads are of medieval or post-medieval origin, and widely-scattered medieval material appears to indicate dispersed occupation of this date.

Evaluation (Figs. 2, 3 and 4)

- 2.9 Evaluation confirmed the presence of a north-east/south-west aligned ditch, which was cut into the natural substrate (Trench 1, Figs. 2 and 3). This ditch was 2.1m wide, and contained two undated silty fills (105 and 104). This ditch accorded with the projected course of the Mid to Late Bronze Age oval enclosure ditch which was recorded during the A30 archaeological works (CA 2017, Trench 1; Butterworth 1999c, 92, fig. 39).
- 2.10 In evaluation Trench 3, a north-west/south-east aligned linear feature was cut into the subsoil, and sealed by modern topsoil (Fig. 2). This feature was 4.2m wide and 0.27m deep, and contained a single silty fill, from which late post-medieval/modern ceramic material was recovered. This feature conformed to the line of the probable natural hollow recorded during the A30 archaeological works (Butterworth 1999c, 103).
- 2.11 The evaluation also recorded a cluster of four pits and a shallow ditch (CA 2017, Trench 4; Figs. 2 and 4). These features were mostly undated, although one pit produced pottery of prehistoric date, and on this basis it was assumed that the pits were all contemporary.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the watching brief and strip, map and sample excavation were to:
- monitor development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - record and analyse any evidence of past land-use prior to physical impact by the new development;
 - recover and analyse any artefactual evidence to date any archaeological remains that may be identified;
 - sample and analyse environmental remains, to create a better understanding of past land-use and economy, and to archive, report and publish the archaeological results at a level appropriate to their significance.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The programme of archaeological work undertaken on the Meadow View Nurseries site comprised an archaeological watching brief and two areas of strip map and sample excavation.

Watching brief

- 4.2 The watching brief was maintained during ground investigation works on the site, and comprised the observation and monitoring of seven excavated test pits (TP1 – TP7, Fig. 2). Within each test pit, non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by groundworks contractors under archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 Provision was made within the Written Scheme of Investigation (CA 2017) for the contingent investigation and recording of any significant archaeological deposits encountered.

Strip, Map and Sample excavation

- 4.4 There were two excavation areas:
- **Area 1** (measuring approximately 37.5m x 12.5m), which was located in the north-west corner of the site (Figs. 2 and 3), and targeted on the projected course of the Bronze Age enclosure ditch recorded in Trench 1 of the evaluation (CA 2017);

- **Area 2** (measuring approximately 15m x 22.5m), which was of irregular shape, and located towards the south-west corner of the site (Figs. 2 and 4), and targeted on the features recorded in Trench 4 of the evaluation (CA 2017).
- 4.5 The two strip map and sample areas were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) coordinates, using Leica GPS, and were scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment, in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for Avoiding Underground Services*.
- 4.6 Generated spoil was monitored, including scanning with a metal detector, in order to recover artefacts. Hand-cleaning of stripped surfaces, to better define any identified archaeological deposits or features, was undertaken where necessary, and all archaeological features were recorded in plan, using Leica GPS.
- 4.7 The investigation of archaeological features prioritised the recovery of their plan, together with any stratigraphic sequences. Particular emphasis was placed on retrieving structural evidence, and on establishing a chronological framework and characterisation for the site. Where possible, priority was given to features yielding sealed assemblages which could be related to the chronological sequence of the site.

Artefacts

- 4.8 All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing and analysis, in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*. Artefacts from topsoil, subsoil and unstratified contexts were noted, but not retained unless they were of intrinsic interest. Artefacts from stratified excavated contexts were collected, except, where appropriate, for post-medieval or modern material.

Environmental remains

- 4.9 Due care was taken to identify any deposits which displayed potential for palaeo-environmental remains, and seven environmental samples were taken. This followed the guidelines stated in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

5. STRATIGRAPHIC RECORD: FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic Record: factual data

- 5.1 Following the completion of fieldwork, an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled, in accordance with specifications presented in the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015a). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence together with a site matrix was also compiled, and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The fieldwork record comprises the following:

Table 1: Quantification of site records

Context sheets	110
Plans (1:10, 1:20, 1:100)	2
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	39
Trench recording forms	6
Sample sheets	7
Monochrome Films	n/a
Digital photographs	151
Matrices	2

- 5.2 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was limited, with evidence for extensive truncation and levelling in parts of the site. Despite this, archaeological remains survived as negative features. In view of the limited survival of stratigraphic relationships, most features were assigned a preliminary period, based on context dates and/or spatial associations.

Soils and Geology

- 5.3 Where present, topsoil comprised a compact, dark-grey silty clay of 0.2m depth, with a slight inclusion (1%) of medium-sized, sub-angular stones. This overlay a light-brown or grey/brown silty clay subsoil of between 0.3m and 0.6m in depth, which in turn overlay a natural deposit of firm, dark-brown/red clay, with small stone inclusions. Where investigated, this displayed a depth of 0.8m above underlying bedrock.

Phasing

- 5.4 The assessment of dateable material and stratigraphic relationships has identified four phases of archaeological activity on site:

- Period 1: earlier prehistoric (4000-2000 BC), represented by redeposited worked flint of Bronze Age or Neolithic date;
- Period 2: Middle and Late Bronze Age (1500-700BC) represented by the enclosure ditch and associated features in Area 1;
- Period 3: Middle/Late Iron Age (300BC – AD 60), represented by the remains of one, and possibly two, roundhouse(s) and associated features in Area 2;
- Period 4: Roman (AD 60-400), represented by nine sherds from Area 2, which are considered to be intrusive, and
- Period 5: Post-medieval and modern (1540-1900), represented by ceramic building material and whiteware pottery from fill 304, of hollow 304, in evaluation trench 3, and by an intrusive post-medieval sherd from the fill of ditch terminal 819.

5.5 Areas 1 and 2 were chronologically discrete, with Middle and Late Bronze Age features confined to the former, and Middle/Late Iron Age features to the latter. A high proportion of features within each area contained no dateable material, but were assigned to period on the basis of spatial or stratigraphic relationships. Only a small number of features were unphased.

Area 1 (Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7)

5.6 Area 1, of 0.047ha in extent, targeted the course of the Bronze Age enclosure ditch, which was identified in Trench 1 of the evaluation (CA 2017), and predicted by the adjacent investigations associated with the A30 road scheme (Figs. 2 and 3; Butterworth 1999a, 39-40). Excavation within Area 1 identified two opposing ditch terminals with associated post settings, which probably represented a gateway, together with an earlier, apparently discontinuous ditch and a number of individual postholes.

The Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch

5.7 Area 1 was dominated by the enclosure ditch, which was interrupted by a 3.2m-wide entranceway, located 20m from the western edge of Area 1. Ditch terminal 927, on the south-west side, was opposed by terminal 918, to the north-east (Figs. 3, 5 and 6). The intervening entranceway was associated on the north side (i.e. the

- enclosure interior) by parallel series of post settings, which appeared to represent a gate structure or possibly a sequence of gates. Towards the western end of Area 1, the enclosure ditch was found to cut an earlier, smaller ditch, 932, of unknown date or function.
- 5.8 At terminal 927, the enclosure ditch exhibited a maximum width of 2.7m, and depth of 0.97m, with moderately-sloping, but irregular, sides, and a flat base (Fig. 6, section BB). A sequence of four fills was recorded. Primary fill 928, of light-brown sandy clay, comprised weathering material and slippage from the south-east sides of the ditch. Lower secondary fill 929, a light-grey/brown silty clay, contained inclusions of common rounded gravel and occasional charcoal, but no finds. Sample 3 from this deposit contained charcoal and hawthorn stone fragments. The asymmetrical accumulation of material within fills 928 and 929 on the south-east side of the ditch section in this location was puzzling, as an external bank would not be expected (Section BB, Fig. 6).
- 5.9 Upper secondary fill 930, of mid-grey/brown silty clay, contained common, rounded pebbles, and occasional charcoal, but no finds. Again, the presence of larger stones on the south-east sides of this fill might suggest a collapsed external feature of some kind. Fill 931, of mid-brown/grey silty clay, included abundant pebbles and occasional charcoal. The profile of this stony deposit (Fig. 6, section BB) may suggest a shallow recut, possibly after lower ditch fills had stabilised.
- 5.10 Ditch terminal 918, located 3.2m to the north-east of terminal 927, displayed a width of 2.4m and depth of 1.1m, with sharply-defined, steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, section AA). This terminal contained a primary fill, 919, of compact, grey/brown silty clay, which resembled primary fill 928 of terminal 927. Sample 1, from fill 919, contained barley and hulled wheat grain fragments and charcoal. Lower secondary fill 920, of dark-brown silty clay, had been deposited on the north-west side of this section of the enclosure ditch. Upper secondary fill 921, resembled fill 930 of terminal 927, and comprised a light-grey/brown silty clay, containing sub-angular stones and sparse sherds of Bronze Age pottery. This fill appeared to be cut by a possible recut, 922, which displayed a sharply-defined concave profile, with a width of 1.32m and depth of 0.44m. This may relate to the possible evidence of a recut represented by fill 931 in ditch terminal 927 (Fig.6, section BB) Within recut 922, a shallow lower fill, 923, of 0.08m depth, comprised a dark-grey/black silty clay, which was rich in charcoal (25%) but contained no finds. Sample 2 from this fill contained hazelnut shell fragments. This may represent a deposit of domestic refuse or hearth

material, and sample 2, also from this context contained barley and hulled wheat grain fragments, charcoal and polygonum tuber. An upper fill, 924, of dark-grey/brown silty clay, contained small inclusions of sub-angular stones and charcoal, but no finds.

Cut features to the north of Terminal 927

- 5.11 Three cut features, 946, 948 and 944, were located on a straight, north-west/south-east alignment, to the north of terminal 927, and appeared, along with a corresponding arrangement of post settings immediately to the north-west of terminal 918, to represent a substantial gateway structure (Fig. 3). Posthole 946 was sub-circular in plan, and located 0.5m to the north of terminal 927. It displayed a maximum diameter of 0.53m and depth of 0.24m, with steep, asymmetrical sides and tapered base. A single fill, 945, of yellow/brown/grey clay silt, contained occasional, sub-rounded stones with rare charcoal, with no indication of a surviving post-pipe. This posthole cut, and therefore post-dated, pit/posthole 948, which was situated immediately to its north-west.
- 5.12 Pit/posthole 948, located immediately to the north-west of, and cut by, posthole 946, was sub-oval in plan, with a length of 1.25m, width of 0.9m and depth of 0.23m. It appeared to mirror intercut postholes 954 and 951 on the north-east side of the enclosure entrance, and its plan and size suggested that it may originally have accommodated two large posts. It contained a single fill, 947, of yellow/brown/grey clay silt, with abundant inclusions of sub-rounded stones and occasional charcoal, but no finds. The stone within this fill was observed to be more abundant than in fills 949 and 952, respectively of opposing postholes 951 and 954, and was assumed to represent packing material.
- 5.13 Shallow posthole 944 was located 0.5m to the north-west of 948, and represented the northernmost of the western group of post settings associated with the south-east enclosure entrance. It was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.76m and depth of 0.04m, with rounded, concave sides and base. It contained a single fill, 943, of yellow/brown clay silt, which contained no dateable material.

Cut features to the north of Terminal 918

- 5.14 Three post settings, 925, 954 and 951, were associated with the north-eastern, interior side of terminal 918, and mirrored those associated with terminal 927, to the south-west (Fig. 3; Fig. 7, section CC). These features were partly intercutting, and

appear unlikely to be contemporary; they more probably represent successive phases of post replacement or repair.

- 5.15 Posthole 925 was only visible where the ditch terminal had been fully excavated, and could therefore only be seen in plan. It was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.5m and depth of 0.25m, with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3). The fill, 926, was identical to fill 921 of terminal 918, and the excavator suggested that the post had been removed at some stage, and that the surrounding fill, 921, had simply slumped into the exposed feature. This fill contained no dateable material. Although this posthole had been cut into the underlying natural, it evidently post-dated the digging of the enclosure ditch, although its stratigraphic relationship to fill 921 remains unclear.
- 5.16 Pit 951 was circular in plan, with a maximum diameter of 1m, and depth of 0.2m (Fig. 7, section CC). It had been cut on its north-west side by pit 954. As excavated, it displayed moderately-sloping sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill, 949, of brown silty clay, which enclosed a post-pipe, 650, of 0.3m diameter. This comprised a dark-brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal. Fill 949 contained a single sherd of Middle/Late Bronze Age pottery. Posthole 954 presumably represents a replacement or repair. This feature was circular in plan, with steep sides and a flat base, and measured 0.95m in maximum diameter and 0.21m in depth. It contained a dark-brown, silty clay fill, 952, with occasional charcoal, which surrounded a post-pipe, 953, of 0.45m diameter. This was evident as a dark-brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal.

Ditch 932

- 5.17 Ditch 932 was identified within the western part of Area 1, and on the northern, interior side of the enclosure ditch (Fig. 3). It was cut by the enclosure ditch, and therefore comprised a stratigraphically earlier feature, but did not appear to correspond to any features recorded by the 1996 excavation (Butterworth 1999a, 92, fig. 39; 93, fig. 40). Ditch 932 extended north from the enclosure ditch, on a north/south alignment, and continued for an unknown distance beyond the north-west edge of Area 1. It measured 0.86m in width and 0.23m in depth, with concave, gently sloping sides and a concave base. A lower fill, 933, of mid-brown silty clay, contained occasional charcoal, but no finds. The excavator observed that this fill, although apparently devoid of finds and dateable material, was of mixed character and possibly characteristic of a backfill deposit. An upper fill, 934, comprised a light,

red/brown silty clay, which contained no dateable material. Ditch 932 did not extend south of the enclosure ditch, and may therefore represent an earlier phase of subdivision or enclosure. Two isolated, undated postholes to the south of the enclosure ditch, 939 and 941, appear to continue the alignment of ditch 932 in that direction, and may also comprise elements of an earlier boundary.

External features adjacent to the south-east enclosure entrance

- 5.18 A discrete group of seven postholes, comprising 904, 906, 908, 914 and 916, and intercutting postholes 910 and 912, was located to the south-east of the enclosure entrance, although their spatial relationships did not conform to a coherent structural plan (Fig. 3). The small diameters of most were more typical of stake-holes, which could represent a temporary structure or a possible fence-line (904-910) associated with the south-eastern side of the enclosure entrance.
- 5.19 Intercutting postholes 910 and 912 represented the northernmost features within a short, north-west/south-east alignment of post or stake-holes (Fig. 3). Posthole 910 was cut by posthole 912 on its west side. It was originally oval in plan, with irregular, moderately-sloping sides and, where exposed, a concave base, and measured 0.32m in maximum diameter and 0.2m in depth. It contained a fill, 911, of yellow/brown silty clay, which contained no dateable material. Posthole 912 was oval in plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.50m and depth of 0.22m, with moderately-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill, 913, of grey/brown silty clay, with inclusions of rare charcoal flecks and rounded stones ranging from 100mm to 50mm across. These may represent post-packing material, although no evidence of a post pipe was apparent. The character of this fill otherwise suggested natural silting.
- 5.20 Postholes 904, 906 and 908 respectively measured 0.18m, 0.28m and 0.16m in diameter, with depths of 0.15m, 0.2m and 0.1m. They contained similar grey/yellow/brown silty clay fills, which contained no dateable material.
- 5.21 Two isolated stake-holes or postholes, 914 and 916, were located to the south-west of this short alignment, and may also relate to the south-east enclosure entrance, although their location, towards the centre of the entrance approach, would seem to be somewhat anomalous (Fig. 3). Stake-hole 914, located 3.5m to the east of terminal 927, was oval in plan, and measured 0.21m in diameter and 0.2m in depth. It displayed steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill, 915, of

grey/brown silty clay, which contained no dateable material. Posthole 916 was located 4.5m south-east of terminal 927, and was of oval plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.39m, and depth of 0.6m. It contained a similar, firm grey/brown silty clay fill, 917, which suggested natural silting process following removal of the post. The evidence around the south-east entrance of the enclosure suggested some readjustment of post settings at an unknown date.

Features to the south of the enclosure ditch

- 5.22 Two shallow pits or postholes were located to the south of the enclosure ditch, towards the western limits of Area 1, and may represent a southerly continuation of the alignment of ditch 932, located immediately to the north of the enclosure ditch (Fig. 3). Posthole 939 was located 0.75m to the south of the enclosure ditch, and was circular in plan, with regular, moderately-sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.55m in diameter, and 0.06m in depth, with a single brown/grey silty clay fill, 940, which contained no dateable material. Posthole 941, located 1.1m to the south-west of posthole 939, measured 0.45m in diameter and 0.07m in depth, with concave sides and base. A compact, brown/grey silty clay fill, comparable with 940, also contained no dateable material.

Area 2 (Figs. 2, 4, 8, 9 and 10)

- 5.23 Area 2 was located within the south-west corner of the site, and was targeted on the features identified in Trench 4 of the evaluation (Figs. 2 and 4; CA 2017). This excavation area was irregular in plan, and measured 0.034ha in area, extending approximately 15m north/south and 22.5m east/west. Archaeological features in Area 2 related almost entirely to the remains of one, and possible two, circular buildings of Iron Age date. Roundhouse 1 was represented by an incomplete ring gully, which had been identified in evaluation trench 4 (CA 2017). The south-east segment of the ring gully appeared to have been lost through truncation. Pottery of Iron Age date was recovered from one intervention in the curvilinear gully, and from terminals 819 and 857 respectively. The gully enclosed 13 cut features, excluding those identified within the evaluation trench). Of these, one (808) contained probably re-deposited items of worked flint, while the others were undated. One internal feature comprised a post trench, 851, which contained a row of four individual post-pipes (Fig. 10, section FF).

Roundhouse 1

- 5.24 Roundhouse 1 was principally defined by a continuous, but incomplete, ring gully, which described approximately two-thirds of a circle of an estimated 10m internal diameter. This terminated on the south and north-west sides (respectively, terminals 819 and 857, Fig. 4). The configuration of this gully and associated postholes, suggested that an original entrance may have been located on the south-east side, although this was not confirmed by excavation. Identified as context 402 of the evaluation, this roundhouse gully was investigated by five interventions, 810, 852, 845, 857 and 819. At intervention 852, on the north-west side, the gully measured 0.32m in width and 0.10m in depth, with concave sides and base. It contained a single fill, 853, of red/brown silty clay, with frequent inclusions of sub-angular stone, but no dateable material. Intervention 845, at the northern extremity of the gully, measured 0.3m in width and 0.08m in depth. Its fill, 844, of grey/brown silty clay contained inclusions of sub-angular stone, but also contained no finds. Sample 4, from fill 820, of terminal intervention 819, contained indeterminate grain fragments and remains of cereal glume base, including emmer. The recorded profiles of the roundhouse gully (not illustrated) suggested a trench for plank-wall construction, rather than the drip-trench commonly associated with Iron Age roundhouse plans (Harding 2009, 92).
- 5.25 The fill of the ring gully provided the principal dating evidence for the associated roundhouse. Fill 811, of intervention 810, produced three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery of South West Decorated type, together with nine sherds resembling Exeter Sandy Greyware. This latter material is of probable Roman date, and therefore likely to be intrusive. No other evidence of Roman-period activity was recorded on the site. Fill 820, of intervention 819, at the southern terminal of the ring gully, contained two sherds of a Ludwell Valley-type fabric of Middle Iron Age date. Fill 817, of posthole 817, which appeared to comprise part of the south-eastern circuit of Roundhouse 1, contained 19 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery.
- 5.26 Feature 859 was located 0.75m to the south-east of terminal 857 of the roundhouse gully, and probably comprised an isolated surviving element of the original gully circuit (Fig. 4). It was oval in plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.6m x 0.45m x 0.12m depth, with concave sides and base. It contained a single fill, 858, of grey/brown silty clay. Pit 410, recorded in trench 4 of the evaluation, also appeared to represent part of the plan of Roundhouse 1. This feature was sub-circular in plan,

with a maximum diameter of 0.68m and depth of 0.15m. Its single fill, 411, contained no dateable material.

- 5.27 Intercutting pits or postholes 812, 815 and 817 were located on the south-east side of Roundhouse 1, and may represent an isolated part of its wall, although evidence of post-wall construction may be problematic in this location (Fig. 8, section DD). These three features may have been broadly contemporary, although 812 appeared to be stratigraphically the earliest. It was oval in plan, with irregular steep or vertical sides, and a concave base, and measured 0.62m in length, 0.32m in width, and 0.39m in depth. A lower fill, 813, of firm grey/ brown silty clay, contained frequent sub-rounded stone and rare charcoal flecks. Upper fill 814 comprised a mid-brown, firm silty clay, with rare charcoal. Posthole 812 was cut on its south side by posthole 817, which was oval in plan, with a moderately-sloping north-east side and a stepped south-west side, with a concave base. It displayed a maximum diameter of 0.6m and depth of 0.23m, and contained a single fill, 818, of mid-grey silty clay, containing Late Iron Age pottery, and rare charcoal.
- 5.28 Posthole 817 cut the fill, 816, of smaller posthole 815, on its south side (Fig. 8, section DD). Posthole 815 was oval in plan, with concave, moderately-sloping sides, and a slightly concave base, and measured 0.5m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.1m in depth. It contained a single fill, 818, of firm, light-grey silty clay, with rare charcoal, but no finds.

Roundhouse 2

- 5.29 A number of postholes and other features within and surrounding Roundhouse 1 appeared to be anomalous in terms of accepted roundhouse plans and structural post settings (Sharples 2010, 226-8). Feature 827, to the south-east comprised a short arc which did not conform to the curvature of the ring gully. This, together with postholes 806, 802, 804 854, 842, and possibly 859 (5.25, above), all lie within a plausibly circular configuration which partly occupies the footprint of Roundhouse 1, and is of comparable diameter (Fig. 4). This evidence tentatively suggested the existence of an earlier circular-plan building on this site, and such speculation may be supported by a number of regional comparators for successive circular buildings of Middle/Late Iron Age date (cf. Blackhorse; Butterworth 1999d, 164, fig. 83).
- 5.30 Feature 827 comprised a short length of shallow curvilinear ditch or gully, which measured 3.7m in length, 2.25m in width and 0.1m in depth (Fig. 4). It was located

2m to the east of terminal 819 of the ring gully, but did not conform to its projected curvature. It was investigated by three interventions, 821 (western terminal), 827 and 825 (eastern terminal). Intervention 827 displayed sharply-defined, concave sides, and a concave base, and contained a single fill, 828, of brown/grey silty clay, with an infrequent inclusion of sub-angular stones, but no finds. Sample 5, from fill 22 of intervention 821, produced no evidence of charred plant remains.

- 5.31 Posthole 806 was located towards the south-western limits of the conjectural Roundhouse 2, and 0.5m east of ring gully terminal 819 (Fig. 4). It was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.4m and depth of 0.13m, with steep sides and flat base. It contained a single fill, 807, of dark, brown/grey silty clay, which contained no dateable material. The excavator suggested that this fill resembled later backfilling, following deliberate removal of the post. Posthole 802 was of circular plan, and located close to the roundhouse gully on its south-west side. It measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.1m in depth, with a single fill, 803, of brown/grey silty clay, which contained no dateable material. Closely-adjacent posthole 804, just to the north-west, was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.44m and depth of 0.09m, with a fill, 805, of brown/grey silty clay, which contained no finds. Sample 7 from this fill contained no evidence of charred plant remains.
- 5.32 Posthole 854 was sub-circular in plan, and located on the north-west side of the projected circuit of Roundhouse 2 (Fig. 4). It displayed gently-sloping, concave sides and base, and measured 0.42m in maximum diameter and 0.06m in depth, with a single fill, 855, of brown silty clay. This fill contained frequent angular stones, assumed to represent packing material, together with rare charcoal, but no finds. Posthole 842 was located 1.5m to the north-east of 854, and displayed a maximum diameter of 0.35m and depth of 0.09m, with moderate, concave sides and base. It contained a single fill, 843, of brown silty clay, which contained angular stones and rare charcoal, but no finds.

Unattributed postholes and cut features

- 5.32 A number of individual features, principally post settings, did not conform to the conjectural circular plans of Roundhouses 1 or 2, and may therefore represent internal structural supports or sub-divisions. These included posthole 840, located towards the northernmost extent of the interior of Roundhouse 1, and 1m south of the ring gully (Fig. 4). This measured 0.45m in maximum diameter and 0.17m in depth,

and contained a fill, 841, of brown silty clay, which contained no dateable material. Sample 6 from this fill contained indeterminate grain fragments and vetch seed.

Feature 851

- 5.30 Feature 851 was of elongated, oval plan, and measured 2.28m in length. It was not a cut feature as such, but comprised a closely-associated series of post settings, which was aligned south-west/north-east, and located towards the centre of the interior of Roundhouse 1 (Fig. 10, section FF). This measured 0.24m in depth, with asymmetrical, concave sides, and rounded, irregular base. The excavator suggested that the evidence of individual post-pipes within feature 851 indicated that the posts concerned had decayed *in situ*, following the abandonment of the roundhouse. On this basis, it is possible that these collectively represented some form of structural support, possible involving successive individual, or pairs of, posts.
- 5.31 Feature 851 contained a general fill, 846, of grey/brown sandy clay, into which had been cut the four individual post settings (Fig. 10, section FF). This fill contained occasional small stones and rare charcoal, but no finds. The post pipes within this fill, comprising contexts 847, 848, 849 and 850, displayed some conformity of plan and dimensions, with diameters ranging from 0.29m (849) to 0.47m (847), and depths from 0.15m (850) to 0.23m (849). The uniform, brown sandy clay fills of all four post pipes contained charcoal flecks, but no finds.
- 5.32 Pit or posthole 832 was located 1.8m from the projected south-eastern limits of Roundhouse 1, and 0.8m west of posthole 823 (Fig. 4). It was of sub-circular plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.6m and depth of 0.11m, and displayed rounded, concave sides and base, with a notably asymmetrical profile. A single fill, 831, of brown/grey sandy clay, contained sub-rounded stone, but no dateable material. Posthole 823 was of oval plan, and located 0.8m to the west of posthole 815, and 0.75m to the east of posthole 832. It measured 0.5m in length (north-west/south-east), and 0.26m in width, with a depth of 0.35m. It displayed steep, near-vertical sides, with a fill, 824, of compact, light-grey silty clay, with abundant sub-angular stone, which was assumed to represent packing material.
- 5.33 Pit or posthole 830 was located close to the projected south-eastern limits of the interior of Roundhouse 1, and c. 2m north-east of gully terminal 819 (Fig. 4). This location may relate to a roundhouse entrance on this side. It was of oval plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.63m, and depth of 0.1m, with symmetrical, rounded sides

and base. A single fill, 829, of pink/grey sandy clay, contained sub-rounded stones, but no dateable material.

- 5.34 Pit or posthole 808 was of sub-circular plan and was located c. 2.3m north of gully terminal 819 (Fig. 4). It measured 0.45m in maximum diameter, and 0.5m in depth, with steep sides and an uneven base. It contained a single fill, 809, of dark-brown silty clay, which was incompletely excavated, but contained a 25% inclusion of stone. This fill produced the only four items of worked flint (11g) from the site. They comprised two broken flakes, which were not chronologically diagnostic, and two multi-platform flake cores. The cores are considered to be typical of Neolithic flint-working (Sommerville, this report). The condition of this material suggested that it was redeposited, and no other evidence of Neolithic activity was recorded on this site.

Unattributed features outside Roundhouses 1 and 2

- 5.35 A small number of cut features were located outside the projected footprints of Roundhouses 1 and 2, to the south-east, and appear to have no structural associations with either suggested building. These include elongated feature 837, and postholes 834 and 835. Feature 837 was aligned north/south, and located c. 0.5m south-east of feature 827, with which it may possibly have been associated, although no relationship was confirmed by excavation. This feature measured 1.82m in length, 0.75m in width, and 0.3m in depth, with steeply-sloping sides and an irregular base (Fig. 4; Fig. 9, section EE). Feature 837 cut posthole 835, located immediately to the south, and contained two fills. A lower fill, 838, of dark, brown/grey clay of 0.22m depth, contained angular stone fragments, but no datable material. An upper fill, 839, of dark, grey/brown silty clay, was similarly undated. In view of their colour and texture, these fills may represent domestic refuse.
- 5.36 Posthole 835 was cut by feature 837 on its northern side (Fig. 9, section EE). It was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum diameter of 0.7m and depth of 0.21m, with steep, concave sides. It contained a single fill, 836, of dark-grey silty clay, containing sub-angular stones, which the excavator interpreted as packing material, but no dateable material. Posthole 834 was located c. 0.75m to the south-west of posthole 835, and was of similar dimensions, measuring 0.58m in maximum diameter and 0.1m in depth. It displayed moderately-sloping, symmetrical sides, and contained an unusual single fill, 833, of light pink/grey sandy clay, with occasional inclusions of stone and charcoal, but no finds. This fill may represent a deposit of fire-affected

material. Postholes 385 and 384 may represent a post-built structure closely associated with the roundhouse(s), possibly a fenced boundary of some kind. The cutting of posthole 835 by feature 837 suggested that both postholes may belong to an earlier phase of Iron Age activity.

Features recorded by evaluation

- 5.37 In addition to pit 410 (section 5.26, above), three other features were identified in evaluation Trench 4; pits 404, 406 and 408 (Fig. 4). These were shallow features, which may relate to interior structures or activities but their profiles were not characteristic of postholes. These all displayed moderately-sloping sides and bowl-shaped profiles. Pit 404 measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.09m in depth, while pit 406 measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.14m in depth. Both contained single fills with no dateable material. Shallow, sub-circular pit 408 was located c.0.9m to the south of pit 406, and displayed a diameter of 0.48m and depth of 0.04m. Its single fill, 409, contained a relatively large quantity of Iron Age pottery and fired clay fragments. The dimensions of this feature, together with its location towards the centre of Roundhouse 1 and the nature of its fill, suggest associations with a hearth.

The Watching Brief

- 5.38 A watching brief was observed during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits excavated across the site (TP1 – TP7, Fig. 2). No archaeological finds or features were recorded within any of the pits.

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

- 5.39 A secure stratigraphic sequence is essential to elucidating the form, purpose, date, organisation and development of the various phases of activity represented. This can be achieved through detailed analysis of the sequence and further integration of the artefactual dating evidence. The refined sequence will then serve as the spatial and temporal framework within which other artefactual and biological evidence can be understood.
- 5.40 While the stratigraphic record forms a complete record of the archaeological features uncovered, the relative lack of inter-relationships between these features, and the limited amount of dating evidence available from other datasets, limits the potential for fully elucidating the chronological development of the site.

5.41 There is little scope for further assessment of the stratigraphic record and dating evidence within Areas 1 and 2. That from Area 1 substantially confirms the results of immediately adjacent excavation in 1996 (Butterworth 1999c). However, some elucidation of the following features maybe justified:

- The suggested recut, 922, of Bronze Age enclosure ditch terminal 918, may correspond to the possible recut suggested by the profile of fill 931 in ditch terminal 927 (Fig. 6, section BB). However, the various ditch sections recorded during the 1996 excavation, immediately to the north (Butterworth 1999a, 93, fig. 40) nowhere suggest evidence of recutting. The possible recut 922 appears to be relatively slight, and it is not clear what function this might have fulfilled, or at what date.
- It remains unclear whether the corresponding alignments of post settings associated with the internal side of terminals 918 and 927 of the enclosure ditch comprise elements of single structure, or successive episodes of repair or replacement of simple gate-posts. Further assessment of individual post sections and plans, and the character of fills, may further understanding of these features.
- The evidence for Roundhouse 2 remains conjectural. An assessment of any differences between the dimensions and the character of the fills of the cut features suggested to relate to respective buildings may identify substantive differences.
- The presence of Roman material in Area 2, although slight, is potentially problematic. Fill 811, of intervention 810, produced three sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery of South West Decorated type, together with nine sherds resembling Exeter Sandy Greyware. No other evidence of Roman-period activity was recorded on the site. Quinnell (this report) has pointed out that as the South Western Decorated pottery recorded within ring gully fills 810 and 819 is unlikely to be later than the earlier first century BC, and as Roundhouse 1 is unlikely to have remained in use in the later first century AD, this material is most likely to be intrusive.

6. ARTEFACTUAL RECORD: FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 6.1 All finds recovered during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. The recovered finds are quantified in Table 2, below:

Table 2: quantification of finds

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Bronze Age	6	35
	Late Iron Age	24	28
	Roman	9	11
	Post-medieval	1	55
	<i>Total</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>129</i>
Flint	Worked	4	11
Fired Clay	Fragments	3	25
CBM	Fragment	1	131

Worked flint

- 6.2 Only four pieces of worked flint were recovered by excavation, which included two flakes and two cores, all of which had been recovered from a single context, fill 809 of pit 808 (Appendix C). The small assemblage, which is probably redeposited, is broadly characteristic of a Neolithic date.

Pottery

- 6.3 The small pottery assemblage (Appendix D) recovered from both Areas 1 and 2 comprised only 40 sherds (129g), of which six were from the terminal sections of the enclosure ditch in Area 1, and were of Middle to Late Bronze Age date. In Area 2, 24 thin, fragmented sherds (28g) from the roundhouse gully and a small number of posthole fills, are of Later Iron Age date. Of these, five were attributed to the Middle Iron Age period. A further nine wheel-made sherds (11g) are of probable Roman date, and may be intrusive. The investigated Roman settlement at Gittisham Forge is located only 100m to the west (Fig. 1; Grove 1999b). A single intrusive sherd of a post-medieval vessel was recorded in fill 818, of posthole 819.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.4 A single item of ceramic building material (Appendix D), weighing 131g, was recovered from the evaluation phase, hollow 303 (fill 304). The fragment is a curved roof tile of probable post-medieval date.

Artefactual record: statements of potential*Worked flint*

- 6.4 The flint assemblage is too small and localised to offer substantive evidence of prehistoric activity on the site, and is not particularly diagnostic. This material merits passing mention in any publication article, but the assessment included in this report is considered adequate for the purposes of the archive.

Pottery

- 6.5 The scrappy nature and small size of the prehistoric pottery assemblage does not justify any further work, and the assessment included in this report is considered adequate for the purposes of the archive. The data contained in the present report can be edited as appropriate for a published report.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.6 As the CBM comprises a single fragment, of probable post-medieval date, no further recording, analysis or illustration is required.

7. BIOLOGICAL RECORD: FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 7.1 A series of seven environmental samples (120 litres of soil) were processed from the Bronze Age enclosure ditch in Area 1, and from the Late Iron Age roundhouse gully and undated internal postholes in Area 2, with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. No other biological material was recovered.

Biological Record: Factual Data*Plant macrofossil and charcoal*

- 7.2 Charred plant remains from the Bronze Age enclosure ditch included cereal remains, weed seeds and other plant remains, including hawthorn and hazelnut. A more detailed assessment of charred plant material and charcoal is presented in Appendix F of this report. A moderate quantity of charcoal fragments exceeding 2mm in size suggested the presence of material derived from domestic settlement. From the fills of the gully of Roundhouse 1, and of posthole 840, a small quantity of charred plant remains and charcoal included indeterminate grain fragments. This material was also interpreted as dispersed domestic settlement waste.

Biological record: statements of potential*Charred plant remains and charcoal*

- 7.3 The charred plant remains assemblages recovered are small, and there is no potential for further analysis to provide detailed information on the range of crops and local crop processing activities, and on the surrounding environment, during the Bronze Age period. The range of species recovered is comparable with those recorded from the Hayne Lane site, although those were much richer (Clapham 1999). There is only limited potential for analysis of selected charcoal assemblages from the Enclosure Ditch, to augment the existing body of information regarding species composition, and Bronze Age management and exploitation of local woodland resources, previously obtained from the Hayne Lane site (Gale 1999).

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 8.1 The two excavation areas were chronologically discrete, and respectively represented archaeological activity of the Middle/Late Bronze Age and Middle/Late Iron Age periods. Excavation in Area 1 confirmed the presence of a Bronze Age enclosure ditch, together the south-eastern entrance suggested by earlier geophysical survey. The features in Area 1 produced little dateable material, but could be confidently dated on the basis of sparse pottery finds and by the results of earlier investigation (Butterworth 1999c). The south-east entrance was associated with a series of post settings representing a gate structure. The sequence of ditch fills complemented that recorded by earlier excavation, and included possible evidence of re-cutting, together with evidence of an internal bank. An earlier, but undated, ditch or gully beneath the enclosure ditch, together with possibly contemporary postholes, may represent evidence of an earlier phase of prehistoric enclosure.
- 8.2 Within Area 2, a Late Iron Age roundhouse was represented by a partly-preserved ring gully, and a discrete group pits and postholes. Some of these may represent the plan of a probably earlier roundhouse of comparable dimensions, but of possible post-ring construction. The conjectural evidence for sequential roundhouses on this site has a number of local parallels. A small assemblage of pottery from Area 2 suggests a limited period of Iron Age occupation, which may have extended into the Early Roman period. While almost all features in Area 2 could be assigned a Middle/Late Iron Age date on the basis of stratigraphic or spatial relationships, it is conceivable that some may represent earlier prehistoric activity. Pit 410, recorded within evaluation trench 4, together with pit 808 of the excavation, contained the only

items of worked flint recorded on this site. While this material is likely to be residual, no other evidence of Neolithic activity was recorded on the site.

- 8.3 The artefactual evidence from both excavated areas was very limited, and principally comprised pottery of Bronze Age and Middle/Late Iron Age date. While providing a basic chronological framework in both cases, this material is strongly complemented by that from neighbouring contemporary sites, and retains very limited potential for further analysis. Similarly, the limited quantities of charred plant remains and charcoal obtained from sampled contexts are broadly representative of the periods concerned within this area, and with the exception of charcoal from the fills of the Bronze Age enclosure ditch, have very little potential for further analysis.
- 8.4 The original objectives of evaluation and excavation have been addressed, and the archaeological features encountered in both areas have been satisfactorily recorded, dated and characterised. The outcome of the evaluation and excavation is in accordance with the criteria expressed in Strategic Theme A, of the current South West Regional Research Framework (Grove and Croft (eds) 2012). The material record throughout is limited in range and scope, but has, along with the results of earlier excavation, permitted a broad chronological framework for the site to be determined. Due to the effects of historical truncation, vertical stratigraphy was only well preserved within the fills of the enclosure ditch, and there were otherwise relatively few stratigraphic relationships within the site. Scope for further analysis is therefore limited, although a number of additional objectives have been identified in the Updated Project Design, presented in Section 11 of this report.

9. DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The archaeological background of the Meadow View site is overwhelmingly represented by the work undertaken between 1996 and 1999, in association with the closely adjacent A30 Honiton to Exeter DBFO scheme, (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999a and 1999b). This recorded a variety of sites which ranged from Neolithic to post-medieval in date, but were predominantly of the later prehistoric and Roman periods. The distribution of Middle and Late Bronze Age sites, in particular, revealed a dense, well-established pattern of settlement and activity along the lower slopes of the Otter valley. At Castle Hill (Fig. 1; Butterworth 1999a, 18-38), a Middle Bronze Age farmstead and elements of a co-axial field system was associated with a large

assemblage of Trevisker and Deverel-Rimbury pottery. At Patteson's Cross (Fig. 1; Butterworth 1999b, 69-90), a Middle Bronze Age roundhouse, together with a later Bronze Age enclosure containing a single roundhouse, was recorded. The results of excavation at Hayne Lane, immediately adjacent to this site (Fig. 1; Butterworth 1999c, 99-129), including an enclosure of Middle and Late Bronze Age date, have been summarised in Section 2 of this report.

- 9.2 Excavation in Area 1 confirmed the presence of the south-east length of enclosure ditch which was predicted by earlier excavation (Butterworth 1999b, 93, fig. 40). The presence of a south-east enclosure entrance suggested by geophysical survey (cf. Butterworth 1999c, 92, fig. 39) was also confirmed by the current investigation. While this was of comparable dimensions to that previously recorded on the east side, evidence of a post-built gateway structure suggested that this may have functioned as a principal entrance, particularly as such a south-easterly orientation will have reflected that of many contemporary roundhouse entrances (Sharples 2010, 197-200; Oswald 1997). The earlier excavation also recorded few finds from the ditch, with most concentrated within ditch terminals, and also recorded greater deposition of stone on the inner side of the ditch, which appeared to be derived from an internal bank. Radiocarbon dates obtained at this time indicated a relatively wide date-range for the enclosure, extending from the Middle Bronze Age, well into the Late Bronze Age period (Allen 1999, 122-3). However, such evidence did not necessarily represent an unbroken sequence of occupation, as suggested by the evidence for sequential roundhouse construction. In common with a number of recorded examples in south Devon, and across southern Britain, the internal organisation of the site (i.e. principal dwelling, ancillary building, four-post structures and activity areas) closely conforms to the basic Bronze Age social unit defined by Ellison (1981). In terms of spatial organisation, if not size, the Hayne Lane enclosure displays clear similarities with those investigated at Trevisker, Cornwall (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972), and Town Farm Quarry, Burlescombe, Devon (Farnell and Quinnell 2015).
- 9.3 The Iron Age roundhouse(s) in Area 2 appear to bear no relation to the Bronze Age enclosure, and appear to be broadly representative of a regional pattern of small-scale, unenclosed settlement during this period. The evidence from Area 2 is complemented by the three Iron Age sites identified during the 1996-9 programme of A30 road scheme investigations (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999a). With the exception of a Late Iron Age example at Blackhorse (Butterworth 1999d, 161, fig. 81), all

investigated Iron Age settlements within the Otter valley were unenclosed, and these sites are generally located at slightly higher elevations than those of Bronze Age antecedents. Charred plant remains suggested the establishment of widespread arable farming regimes, with the possibility that higher valley sides had been brought into cultivation at this time.

- 9.4 The archaeological signatures of Middle and Late Bronze Age houses across the various A30 sites differed significantly from those of the Middle and Late Iron Age. The former were generally of simple post-ring construction and of smaller size, while the latter were defined, as at the current site, by penannular ditches or ring gullies (Butterworth 1999d, 164, fig. 83; 174, fig. 88). The levels of preservation evident on the Meadow View Nursery site, and on other Iron Age sites along the A30 corridor, do not permit an easy distinction between the circular drip or drainage gullies commonly surrounding contemporary roundhouses, and evidence of ring-groove construction (cf. Harding 2009, 68). From available evidence, the conjectural Roundhouse 2 appears to be of notably different, post-built construction, and may therefore represent an earlier post-built type. Should this be the case, it would be interesting to speculate on the implications of rebuilding on the same site. Houses incorporating ring gullies appear to have replaced those of the post-circle type in the East Devon area from the Early Iron Age onwards (Quinnell and Farnell 2016, 162-3), which in this case may indicate an implausibly long interval between the abandonment of conjectural Roundhouse 2 and the establishment of Roundhouse 1.
- 9.5 The evidence in Area 2 indicates that the ring gully, together with pit 858, intercutting pits 812, 815 and 817, and possibly pit 410 in evaluation Trench 4, all comprise disconnected elements of the plan of a single house (Roundhouse 1, Fig. 4). While a number of pits or postholes enclosed by the gully do not appear to conform to any coherent plan, including a concentric arrangement of internal post settings, a number may represent structural supports or internal divisions. However, a number of cut features, including postholes 802, 804, 845 842, 858 and gully 827 are all situated within a near-circular circuit of comparable diameter to Roundhouse 1, and may plausibly represent elements of a possibly earlier building (Roundhouse 2), which occupied much of the same footprint as Roundhouse 1. On the assumption that Roundhouse 1 was a direct successor to Roundhouse 2, it is tempting to speculate on the possible timescales involved. A number of commentators (Brück 1991, 149; Gerritsen 1999, 110; Sharples 2010, 222-226) have suggested that the use-life of a late prehistoric roundhouse may effectively have been coeval with the

life of its principal inhabitant, and that such short lifespans are evident in a number of locally-excavated examples of superimposed roundhouse plans (cf. Butterworth 1999b, 76, fig. 34, 77; 124, fig. 61; Butterworth 1999d, 164, fig. 83). In such cases, Sharples (2010, 228) has suggested that there may have been no direct succession between occupants and their descendants, and that the reconstruction of a house on, or close to, the location of the original, may simply signify a deliberate act of inheritance by a new generation, possibly involving the re-use of the timbers of the original house (cf. Bradley 2005, 55-6). This could conceivably involve an interval in occupation of a generation or more in some cases, although it is not possible to refine any chronological relationship between Roundhouses 1 and 2.

10. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Exeter, while post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with the Prince Albert Museum, Exeter (accession reference: RAMM 17/60), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project.

11. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 11.1 To fulfil the potential of the site data, the following updated objectives have been set out to provide a framework for proposed further analysis leading to publication:

Objective 1: to analyse the evidence for conjectural Roundhouse 2

- 11.2 A more detailed assessment of structural evidence, together with any associated artefactual material, may assist in the positive identification, or otherwise, of Roundhouse 2, and thus extend the later prehistoric chronology of the site.

Objective 2: to analyse the evidence for a gate structure at the south-eastern enclosure entrance

- 11.3 The excavated evidence suggests a sequence of post settings associated with the interior of the south-eastern entrance. Detailed analysis of stratigraphic relationships and the character of fills may help elucidate the nature of any post-built structures, and whether these do in fact represent a sequence of repair and replacement.

Objective 3: to assess possible evidence for earlier prehistoric activity In Area 2

- 11.4 While archaeological features within Area 2 appear to be representative of a single phase, a number of these remain technically undated, Fill 409, of pit 408, in evaluation trench 4 (Fig. 4), while located within the footprints of both conjectural roundhouses, contained rock-tempered pottery of possibly earlier prehistoric date, together with fragments of fired clay.

12. PUBLICATION

- 12.1 The results from the investigations at the Meadow Valley Nursery site are of local significance. They complement the earlier published investigations associated with the 1996-9 A30 road scheme, and provide a fuller understanding of a significant Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement enclosure, which comprises a relatively unusual site type in East Devon. In addition, the site contained evidence of Late Iron Age unenclosed settlement, which may include evidence of sequential roundhouse construction, and therefore contributes to understandings of an otherwise under-researched period of occupation in South and East Devon. It is proposed that a short summary article is published in a future volume of the *Proceedings of the Devon Archaeological Society*.

Synopsis of Proposed Report

12.2

Excavation and Evaluation at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton

by Richard Massey and Jeremy Austin

	Words
Acknowledgements	50
Summary	100
Introduction	
Location, topography and geology	100
Archaeological background	200
Project background	50
Excavation Results	
Chronological discussion of the major phases and features of the site	
<i>Site narrative</i>	500
<i>Pottery (Henrietta Quinnell)</i>	200
<i>Lithics (Jacky Sommerville)</i>	50
<i>Burnt/Fired Clay (Katie Marsden)</i>	50
<i>Plant macrofossils (Sarah F Wyles)</i>	100
<i>Charcoal (Dana Challinor)</i>	100
Discussion	
<i>The Bronze Age Enclosure</i>	200

	<i>Iron Age Roundhouse Construction</i>	200
	<i>Regional settlement patterns</i>	100
Conclusion		150
Bibliography		300
Appendices		
	Total words	2550
	Approximate pages @ 800 words/page	3
		Pages
Illustrations		
	Site plans for Areas 1 and 2, with phasing	2
Total publication estimate		5 pages

13. PROJECT TEAM

- 13.1 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by **Karen Walker MCIfA** (Principal Post-Excavation Manager), and managed by **Richard Massey MCIfA** (Post-Excavation Manager), who will contribute to the discussion as senior author, and co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Jeremy Austin (Project Officer: PO):

Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive

Sarah F Wyles (Senior Environmental Officer SEO)

Specialist Report preparation and liaison

Jacky Sommerville (Finds Officer: FO)

A sentence on the lithics should be included in any publication on the site. No further recording, analysis or illustration is required

Charlotte Patman ACIfA (Illustrator: ILL):

Production of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings (exc. pottery)

Jon Bennett ACIfA (Geomatics Officer: GO):

GIS applications

The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management, and will be subject to an external review by a referee appointed by the county journal.

14. TASK LIST

Table 3: Task List

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION/ COST
Project Management		
	PXM	0.5 day
Stratigraphic Analysis		
	PO	0.5 day
Research, comparanda	PXM	0.5 day
Preparation of publication report		
Abstract and introduction	PXM	0.5 day
Excavation results	PO	1 day
	SI	1 day
Discussion, conclusions	PXM	0.5 day
Acknowledgements, bibliography	PXM	0.25 day
QA	PPXM	0.5 day
Submission to external referees		
Editing & revisions	PXM	0.25 day
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT		
Archive		
Research archive completion	FS	0.5 day
Deposition	FS	0.5
Museum Costs		fee
ADS Digital Archiving		fee
Publication		
Printing	PDAS	fee

15. TIMETABLE

- 15.1 For a journal publication project, CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within three to six months of approval of the updated publication project design. A detailed programme can be produced if desired on approval of the updated publication project design.

16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 16.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Austin, assisted by Eduardo Vigo, Victoria Parsons, Christina Tapply, Jake Godfrey and Paul Clarke. The pottery report was compiled by Henrietta Quinnell, and the lithics and fired clay reports by Jacky Sommerville and Katie Marsden, respectively. The charred plant remains and charcoal report was compiled by Sarah F. Wyles, and the illustrations were prepared by Daniel Bashford. The fieldwork project was managed by Derek Evans, and the post-excavation by Richard Massey, who also contributed to this report.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Table 4: Context Descriptions

Area	Context	Ctx_type	Fill_of	Ctx_Description	Feature_type	Spot_date	Sample No.
2	800	layer		Topsoil, firm silty clay, with frequent grit and occasional sub-rounded stones, 0.3m thick.	Natural soil		
2	801	layer		Natural strata, light-red/brown, firm silty sand, frequent small/medium rounded pebbles from 75mm x 50mm to grit. Also occasional gravel bands.	Natural strata		
2	802	cut		Posthole, circular 0.4m x 0.4m, moderate sides with concave base	Posthole	MIA/LIA	
2	803	fill	802	Single post hole fill, compact silty clay, 0.4m x 0.4m x 0.1m thick			
2	804	cut		Sub-circular post hole cut, w moderate sides flat base, 0.44m x 0.4m x 90mm depth	Posthole	MIA/LIA	
2	805	fill	804				<7>
2	806	cut		Posthole, circular, steep sides & flat base, 0.4m x 0.4m x 0.13m thick	Posthole	MIA/LIA	
2	807	fill	806	Single posthole fill, dark brown/grey compact silty clay, 0.4m x 0.4m x 0.13m thick			
2	808	cut		Pit, circular in plan, w steep sides & flat base, sloping slightly from south, 0.45m x 0.5m x 0.15m depth	Pit	MIA/LIA	
2	809	fill	808	Single fill of pit, dark-brown loose silty clay, containing worked flint, 25% gravels and stones of various sizes, 0.45m x 0.45m x 0.15m			
2	810	cut		Curvilinear ditch, running from NW to SE, gentle slope dropping to steep sides, concave base, 0.8m slot x 0.72m x 0.21m depth.	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	

2	811	fill	810	Single fill of ditch, dark-brown, compact silty clay, contained pottery, 0.8m slot x 0.72m width x 0.21m thick			
2	812	cut		posthole, oval in plan, steep NE side & vertical SW side w concave base, 0.62m x 0.32m x 0.39m depth	Posthole		
2	813	fill	812	1st fill of posthole, grey/ brown, firm silty clay, w frequent sub-rounded stone 75mm x 50mm to 25mm x 25mm rare charcoal flecks, 0.62m x 0.32m x 0.24m depth			
2	814	fill	812	2nd fill of posthole, mid-brown, firm silty clay, w rare charcoal flecks, 0.62m x 0.3m x 0.16m thick			
2	815	cut		posthole cut, oval in plan, concave moderate sides, & slightly concave base, 0.5m x 0.35m x 0.1m depth	Posthole		
2	816	fill	815	Single fill of posthole, light-grey, firm silty clay, w rare charcoal flecks, 0.5m x 0.35m x 0.1m thick			
2	817	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, slightly stepped, moderately sloped NE side, w stepped SW side with concave sides, concave base, 0.58m x 0.6m x 0.23m depth	Posthole		
2	818	fill	817	Single fill of post hole, mid-grey silty clay, containing pottery, & occasional sub-rounded stone from 75mm x 25mm to 25mm x 25mm, w rare charcoal flecks, 0.58m x 0.6m x 0.23m			
2	819	cut		Ditch terminal, w concave, moderately-sloping sides & concave base, 0.8m slot x 0.65m width x 0.1m depth	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	

2	820	fill	819	Ditch fill, dark brown/grey, compact silty clay, contained pottery, 0.8m slot x 0.65m width x 0.1m thick			<4>
2	821	cut		Ditch terminal, moderate sides & concave base, 0.65m slot x 0.5m width x 0.18m depth	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	
2	822	fill	821	Single fill of Ditch terminal, light grey/brown firm silty clay, w frequent sub-angular stones, from 50m x 50mm to 10mm x 10mm			<5>
2	823	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, vertical sides, base sloping slightly to NE, 0.5m x 0.26m x 0.35m depth	Posthole		
2	824	fill	823	Single fill of posthole, light-grey, compact silty clay, w frequent sub-angular stone from 0.1m x 25mm to 25mm x 25mm to grit, & rare charcoal flecks, 0.5m x 0.26m x 0.35m thick			
2	825	cut		Curvilinear ditch, truncated by machine, 0.53m slot x 0.13m width x 30mm depth	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	
2	826	fill	825	Single fill of ditch, brown/grey compact silty clay, 0.53m slot x 0.13m width x 30mm thick			
2	827	cut		Curvilinear ditch, aligned E-W, w moderate, concave sides & concave base, 0.6m slot x 0.56m width x 0.1m depth	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	
2	828	fill	827	Single fill of ditch, brown/grey, compact silty clay, 0.6m slot x 0.56m width x 0.1m thick			
2	829	fill	830	Fill of ditch, mid- pink/grey, compact sandy clay, w frequent small-medium sub-rounded stone, 0.63m x 0.58m x 0.1m thick			
2	830	cut		Small pit, sub-oval in plan, w gentle concave sides, concave base, 0.63m x 0.58m x 0.1m	Pit		

				depth			
2	831	fill	832	Single fill of pit, mid-brown/grey, compact sandy clay, w occasional sub-rounded, medium-sized stone, 0.6m x 0.38m x 0.11m thick			
2	832	cut		Small pit, sub-oval in plan, w moderate sides & concave base, 0.6m x 0.38m x 0.11m depth	Pit		
2	833	fill	834	Fill of pit, light-pink/grey, loose sandy clay, w occasional medium sub-rounded stone, 0.58m x 0.37m x 0.1m thick			
2	834	cut		Small pit, sub-oval in plan, w moderate sides & concave base, 0.58m x 0.37m x 0.1m depth	Pit		
2	835	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, moderate sides, flat base, 0.32m x 0.7m x 0.21m depth	Posthole		
2	836	fill	835	Single fill of posthole, dark-grey, compact silty clay, 0.32m x 0.7m x 0.21m thick			
2	837	cut		Pit, elongated oval in plan, N-S aligned, w steep sides & irregular base, 1.82m x 0.75m x 0.3m depth	Pit		
2	838	fill	837	1st fill of pit, dark brown/grey, various sizes of loose angular limestones and silty clay, 1.4m x 0.75m x 0.22m thick			
2	839	fill	837	2nd fill of pit, dark grey/ brown, compact silty clay, 1.82m x 0.75m x 0.2m thick			
2	840	cut		Posthole, steep sides & flat base, 0.45m x 0.41m x 0.17m depth	Posthole		
2	841	fill	840	Single fill of posthole, medium-brown, firm silty clay, 0.45m x 0.41m x 0.17m thick			<6>
2	842	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, w moderate sloping sides & concave base, 0.35m x 0.31m x 90mm depth	Posthole		

2	843	fill	842	Single fill of posthole, medium-brown, loose silty clay w frequent angular stones 2-10 cm, 0.35m x 0.31m x 90mm thick			
2	844	fill	845	Fill of ditch, medium grey/brown, compact sandy clay w frequent flint and limestone inclusions, 0.78m slot by 0.3m width x 80mm thick			
2	845	cut		Curvilinear ditch, w moderately-sloping edges, concave base, 0.78m slot x 0.3m width x 80mm depth	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	
2	846	fill	851	Fill of pit, light grey/brown, loose sandy clay, w occasional small rounded stones, 2.82m x 0.8m x 0.24m thick			
2	847	deposit	851	Deposit within pit, light brown/grey, loose clay sand, w occasional charcoal flecks and small stone, 0.47m x 0.37m x 0.2m thick			
2	848	deposit	851	Deposit within pit, light brown/grey loose clay sand, w occasional charcoal flecks and small stone, 0.3m x 0.26m x 0.21m thick			
2	849	deposit	851	Deposit within pit, light brown/grey loose clay sand, w occasional charcoal flecks and small stones, 0.3m x 0.29m x 0.23m thick			
2	850	deposit	851	Deposit within pit, light brown/grey loose clay sand, w occasional charcoal flecks and small stones, 0.38m x 0.2m x 0.15m			
2	851	cut		Pit, sub-oval in plan, w moderate sloping sides & irregular base, 2.82m x 0.8m x 0.24m depth	Pit		
2	852	cut		Curvilinear ditch, w moderate concave slope & concave base, 0.91m slot x 0.32m width x 0.1m depth	Ditch/other linear	MIA/LIA	

2	853	fill	852	Single fill of ditch, red/brown, soft silty clay, w frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded stone, 25mmx 25mm to grit, 0.91m slot x 0.32m width x 0.1m thick			
2	854	cut		Posthole, sub-circular in plan, w gentle slopes, & concave base, 0.35m x 0.42m x 60mm depth	Posthole		
2	855	fill	854	Single fill of posthole, medium-brown, loose silty clay, w frequent angular stones 20mm-80mm, 0.35m x 0.42m x 60mm thick			
2	856	fill	857	Fill of ditch, medium grey/brown, compact sandy clay,, 1.5m x 0.4m x 80mm			
2	857	cut		Ditch terminal w gently sloping sides, & undulating base, SE/NW-aligned, 1.5m x 0.4m x 80mm depth	Ditch/other linear		
2	858	fill	859	Fill of pit, grey/brown sandy clay			
2	859	cut		Pit, oval in plan, 0.6m x 0.45m x 0.25m depth, concave sides and base.			
1	900	layer		Tarmac, 0.3m thick, and made ground 0.4m thick	Make-up/levelling		
1	901	layer		Topsoil, mid-red/brown, loose silty clay 0.25m thick	Natural soil		
1	902	layer		Subsoil, light grey/brown, loose silty clay 0.2m thick	Natural soil		
1	903	layer		Natural strata, mid to light brown firm sandy clay with occasional bands of gravel, throughout area to limit of excavation	Natural strata		
1	904	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, steep sides, flat base, 0.22m x 0.16m x 0.1m depth	Posthole		
1	905	fill	904	Single fill of posthole, grey brown loose silty clay, occasional grit and rare charcoal flecks, 0.22m x 0.16m x 0.1m thick			

1	906	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, steep concave sides, concave base, 0.28m x 0.28m x 0.2m depth	Posthole		
1	907	fill	906	Fill of posthole, yellow brown firm silty clay, 0.28m x 0.28m x 0.2m thick			
1	908	deposit		Stake hole, oval in plan, vertical sides, flat base, 90mm x 0.12m x 0.15m depth	Stakehole		
1	909	fill	908	Single fill of stakehole, grey brown soft silty clay, rare charcoal flecks, 90mm x 0.12m x 0.15m thick			
1	910	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, existing slope moderate and slightly irregular 0.32m length 0.2m width x 0.2m depth	Posthole		
1	911	fill	910	Single fill of posthole yellow brown soft silt clay 0.2m width x 0.2m thick			
1	912	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, moderate sides, concave base, 0.35m length x 0.35m width x 0.22m depth	Posthole		
1	913	fill	912	Single fill of posthole, grey brown loose silty clay, 0.5, x 0.35m x 0.22m thick			
1	914	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, steep sides, flat base, 0.21m x 0.2m x 0.2m depth	Posthole		
1	915	fill	914	Fill of posthole, grey brown loose silty clay, 0.21m x 0.2m x 0.2m thick			
1	916	cut		Posthole, oval in plan, step sides, flat base, 0.39m width x 0.25m x 0.16m	Posthole		
1	917	fill	916	Single fill of posthole, grey brown firm silty clay, 0.39m x 0.25m x 0.16m			
1	918	cut		Curvilinear ditch terminus cut, steep sides, flat base, 1.2m slot x 2.4m width x 1.1m depth	Ditch/other linear	MBA/LBA	

1	919	fill	918	1st fill of ditch terminus, grey brown compact silty clay, contained pot, 1.2m slot x 1.31m slot x 0.37m slot			<1>
1	920	fill	918	2nd fill of ditch terminus, dark brown compact silty clay, 1.2m slot x 0.5m width x 0.3m thick			
1	921	fill	918	3rd and upper fill of ditch terminus, light grey brown compact silty clay, 1.2m slot x 2.4m x 0.73m thick			
1	922	cut		Ditch re-cut, moderate sides concave base, 1m slot x 1.32m width x 0.44m depth	Ditch/other linear		
1	923	fill	922	1st fill of ditch re-cut, dark brown compact silty clay 25% charcoal inclusions, 1m slot x 1.04m width x 80mm depth			<2>
1	924	fill	922	2nd fill of ditch re-cut, dark grey brown compact silty clay, 1m slot x 1.32m width x 0.36m thick			
1	925	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sides flat base, 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.25m depth	Posthole		
1	926	fill	925	Single posthole fill, light grey brown compact silty clay, 0.5m x 0.5m x 0.25m thick			
1	927	cut		Ditch terminus, moderate/irregular sides, flat base, 1.15 slot x 2.70m width x 0.97m depth	Ditch/other linear	MBA/LBA	
1	928	fill	927	1st Fill of ditch terminus, light brown friable sandy clay, 0.57m width x 0.27m thick			
1	929	fill	927	2nd fill of ditch terminus, light grey brown friable silty clay, 2.11mwidth x 0.97m thick			<3>
1	930	fill	927	3rd fill of ditch terminus, mid brown grey firm silty clay, 2.53m x 0.8m thick			

1	931	fill	927	4th fill of ditch terminus mid brown firm, silty clay, frequent pebbles, occasional charcoal, 0.68m x 0.21m thick			
1	932	cut		Ditch, gentle concave sides, concave base, NE SW aligned. 0.86m width x 0.23m depth	Ditch/other linear		
1	933	fill	932	1st fill of ditch, mid brown firm silty clay, 0.55m width x 0.25m thick			
1	934	fill	932	2nd fill of ditch, light red brown firm silty clay, 0.55m width x 0.18m thick			
1	935	cut		Ditch, only eastern side exposed as a moderate slope with a flat base, 0.24m width x 0.2m depth	Ditch/other linear		
1	936	fill	935	Single fill of ditch, light red brown firm silty clay, 0.24m width x 0.2m depth			
1	937	cut		Ditch, only south side exposed steep slope, base not bottomed out, 0.7m width x 0.25m depth	Ditch/other linear		
1	938	fill	937	Fill of ditch, mid brown grey firm silty clay, 0.7m width x 0.25m thick			
1	939	cut		Posthole circular in plan moderate sides, flat base, 0.55m length x 0.49m width x 60mm depth	Posthole		
1	940	fill	939	Single fill of posthole brown grey compact silty clay, 0.55m x 0.49m x 60mm thick			
1	941	cut		Posthole, moderate sides, concave base, 0.45m length x 0.45m width, 70mm depth	Posthole		
1	942	fill	941	single fill of posthole brown grey silt clay 0.45m x 0.45m x 70mm			
1	943		944	Fill of posthole, mid yellow clay silt 0.76m x 0.48m x 0.4m thick			
1	944	cut		Posthole sub circular in plan gentle sides, concave base, 0.76m x 0.48m x 0.4m depth	Posthole		

1	945	fill	946	Fill of posthole mid grey brown clay silt, 0.53m x 0.38m x 0.24m thick			
1	946	cut		Posthole steep sides, concave base 0.53m x 0.38m x 0.24m depth	Posthole		
1	947	fill	948	fill of posthole mid yellow brown clay silt frequent medium stone occasional charcoal flecks 1.25m x 0.9m x 0.23m thick			
1	948	cut		Posthole oval in plan gentle-moderate sides, concave base 1.25m x 0.9m x 0.23m depth	Posthole		
1	949	fill	951	Posthole fill Medium brown compact silty clay, .2m x 0.2m x 0.2m thick			
1	950	deposit	951	Post pipe deposit dark brown compact silty clay occasional charcoal, 0.3m x 0.3m x 0.2m thick			
1	951	cut		Posthole circular in plan, steep sides flat base, 1m x 0.45m x 0.2m depth	Posthole	MIA/LIA	
1	952	fill	954	Fill of posthole, dark brown compact silty clay, 0.3m width x 0.2m thick			
1	953	deposit	954	Post pipe, dark brown, compact silty clay, moderate stone and charcoal, 0.45m width x 0.21m thick			
1	954	cut		Posthole, circular in plan, steep sides, flat base, 0.95m length x 0.75m width x 0.21m depth	Posthole		
1	955	cut		Ditch moderate slopes base not fully excavated, 6m length x 1.1m width 0.2m depth to L.O.E	Ditch/other linear		
1	956	fill	955	Fill of ditch, mid grey loose silty clay 6m x 1.1m width x 0.2m to L.O.E			

APPENDIX B: STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSEMENT

A total of 110 contexts was recorded during the evaluation, watching brief and excavation. While the stratigraphic record forms a complete record of the archaeological features uncovered, the relative lack of inter-relationships between these features, and the limited amount of dating evidence has limited potential for fully elucidating the function and development of the site. Most features were undated, although in most cases it has been possible to assign date on the basis of spatial or stratigraphic relationships. In particular, the previous investigation of the Bronze Age enclosure ditch, immediately to the north, has provided a firm dating framework for Area 1 of the site. The respective features identified within Area 1 and 2 have been satisfactorily characterised and dated, and a broad site chronology has been defined. This relates well to the local and regional contexts provided by the 1996-9 programme of investigations associated with the A30 road improvement scheme (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999a), and other excavated evidence (Salvatore and Quinnell 2011; Quinnell and Farnell 2016).

A small assemblage of worked flints, from the fill of pit 808 is possibly of Neolithic date, and potentially represents the only evidence of earlier activity on the site. The features identified as warranting further assessment: have been itemised in Section 5 of this report.

APPENDIX C: LITHICS

Lithics by Jacky Sommerville

Fill 809 of pit 808 produced the only four worked flints (11g) from the site. They comprise two broken flakes, which are not chronologically diagnostic, and two multi-platform flake cores. The cores are both very small and worked out, which is most typical of Neolithic flintworking strategies (Malone 2001, 217).

APPENDIX D: POTTERY

Pottery by Henrietta Quinnell

The pottery assemblage consists of 39 sherds (74 grams), excluding a single post-medieval item. Six sherds (35g) are either Middle or Late Bronze Age in date, and 24 sherds (28g) are later Iron Age. Of these, five sherds may confidently be assigned a Middle Iron Age date. A further nine sherds (11g) are probably Roman in date, but are likely to be intrusive.

Area 1: The Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch

Context 919, the lowest fill of north-eastern ditch terminal 918, produced a single sherd (17g) in abraded condition. This was a body sherd, c.10mm thick, of grogged fabric with an oxidised exterior and reduced interior. This is dateable to either the Middle or Late Bronze Age period.

Context 921, the upper fill of north-eastern ditch terminal 918, produced three sherds (10g). These were in a sandy fabric, with some fine chert, and occasional inclusions of large, (<2mm) water-worn quartzite. Such large inclusions are appropriate for the Middle Bronze Age. The presence of both chert and quartzite indicate the use of stream material, with inclusions derived from local Upper Greensand sources.

Context 930, the third fill of south-western ditch terminal 927, produced a single sherd (6g) in freshly-broken condition. This was a body sherd in the same fabric as that from 919, above.

Context 949, the fill of posthole 951, adjacent to ditch terminal 918, produced a single sherd (2g) in abraded condition. This is a body sherd in an oxidised fabric, with a grey core, and angular quartzitic inclusions (<4mm), and is of either Middle or Late Bronze Age date.

The grogged sherds from contexts 919 and 930 belong well with the range of Middle to Late Bronze Age fabrics known from previous work on the Hayne Lane enclosure (Laidlaw 1999: Laidlaw and Mephram 1999). The sherds from 921 and 949, although of local origin, are not obviously paralleled at Hayne Lane, but could represent variants of a fabric such as R2 (Laidlaw and Mephram 1999). None of these sherds display any distinctive form or decorative features.

Area 2: Ring gully

Context 811, the fill of ring gully intervention 810, produced three sherds (8g) in fresh condition. These have a fine matrix, with sparse sand inclusions, which include chert, indicating material derived from the Upper Greensand. One has incisions, and appears to be from the neck cordon, with diagonally-incised lines of South Western Decorated type. Eight sherds (10g) in a sandy fabric, and one sherd (1g), in a white fabric, probably represent intrusive material; the former may relate to Exeter Sandy Grey Ware (Paul Bidwell pers. comm.).

Context 818, the fill of posthole 817, located in a probable area of entrance through the ring gully, contained 19 sherds (17g), and one sherd (55g) of post-medieval pottery. These comprised small, thin sherds, probably derived from the same thin-walled, reduced vessel,

with sparse sand inclusions (<2mm). These are presumably of local origin, and of a later Iron Age date.

Context 820, the fill of ring gully terminal 819, produced two sherds (3g) in fresh condition. These are of a Ludwell Valley-type fabric, now established as an identified source for Middle Iron Age South Western Decorated Ware (Taylor 2017), and broadly accord with Peacock's (1969) Group 5. Both sherds display fragments of incised decoration, and are in a reduced fabric, which is typical of this material. The sherds from fill 820, of ring gully terminal 819, come from Ludwell Valley in Exeter, which is now recognised as a source of much of the Middle Iron Age South Western Decorated ware across South and East Devon (Quinnell and Farnell 2016, 135). Chert of Upper Greensand type is, as demonstrated by recent work by Roger Taylor, increasingly recognised in local ceramics, although the link between chert and Upper Greensand sources was not made during work in the 1990s. In the assessment by Quinnell and Taylor of the 1999 Middle Iron Age assemblages from Long Range and Blackhorse (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999), fabrics Q3 and Q4 are noted as of probable Upper Greensand origin. It is notable that no Iron Age material was found on the Hayne Lane site in the 1990s (Butterworth 1999c).

'Later Iron Age' is a general term, which in East Devon covers both the local Middle and Late Iron Ages. Middle Iron Age ceramics, with a distinctive decoration related to that found on metalwork, have long been known, but it has only been recognised during the last decade that these ceased to be made and used by the first century BC. Vessels after this time lose their decoration although retaining the same basic forms and fabric sources. The local Late Iron Age Plain Ware was first recognised in the Late Iron Age enclosure predating St Loye's (Quinnell forthcoming). Distinguishing Late Iron Age Plain Ware on a site which also has Middle Iron Age decorated ceramics can be difficult, especially in small assemblages.

The term 'ring gully' is used here in preference to 'ring ditch'. Houses incorporating ring gullies appear to have generally replaced those incorporating only post-rings, at a date in the Early Iron Age in East Devon and the Exeter area (Quinnell and Farnell 2016, 162-3). As the presence of South Western Decorated pottery in this ring gully (810)/(819) was unlikely to have post-dated the earlier 1st century BC, and as the ring gully itself does not appear to have had a long stratigraphic history, it is unlikely to have remained in use in the later first century AD. The Roman period sherds within the assemblage are therefore likely to be intrusive: Roman-period settlement is known from Gittisham Forge, 100m to west of Hayne Lane (Grove 1999b).

APPENDIX E: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

Ceramic Building Material by Katie Marsden

A single item of ceramic building material, weighing 131g, was recovered from the evaluation phase, hollow 303 (fill 304). The fragment is a curved roof tile of probable post-medieval date.

APPENDIX F: CHARRED PLANT MATERIAL AND CHARCOAL

Environmental Sample Assessment by Sarah F. Wyles

A series of seven environmental samples (120 litres of soil) were processed from the Bronze Age enclosure ditch in Area 1, and the Iron Age roundhouse and undated internal postholes in Area 2, with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was hoped that this environmental evidence would augment that recovered from the Hayne Lane site as part of the work on the widening of the A30 (Fitzpatrick *et al.* 1999a). The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 5, below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals.

Area 1

Bronze Age Enclosure Ditch

A small number of charred plant remains were recovered from fills 919 (sample 1), 923 (sample 2), and 929 (sample 3), of ditch sections 918, 922 and 927 respectively. These included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments, seeds of knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments, a hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) stone and a tuber fragment. The moderate quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm recorded from these fills included mature and roundwood fragments. These assemblages may be representative of domestic settlement material.

Area 2

Late Iron Age Roundhouse Gully

Fill 820 (sample 4) of terminal 819 of the roundhouse gully contained a low number of charred plant remains and charcoal fragments. These included indeterminate grain fragments, and a glume base of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). This assemblage may represent dispersed domestic settlement waste. No charred material was noted from fill 822 (sample 5) of roundhouse gully terminal 821.

Undated Internal Postholes

A small charred assemblage was recorded from fill 841 (sample 6) of posthole 840. These included indeterminate grain fragments and seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Again, this assemblage may represent dispersed domestic waste.

No charred material was recovered from fill 805 (sample 7) of posthole 804.

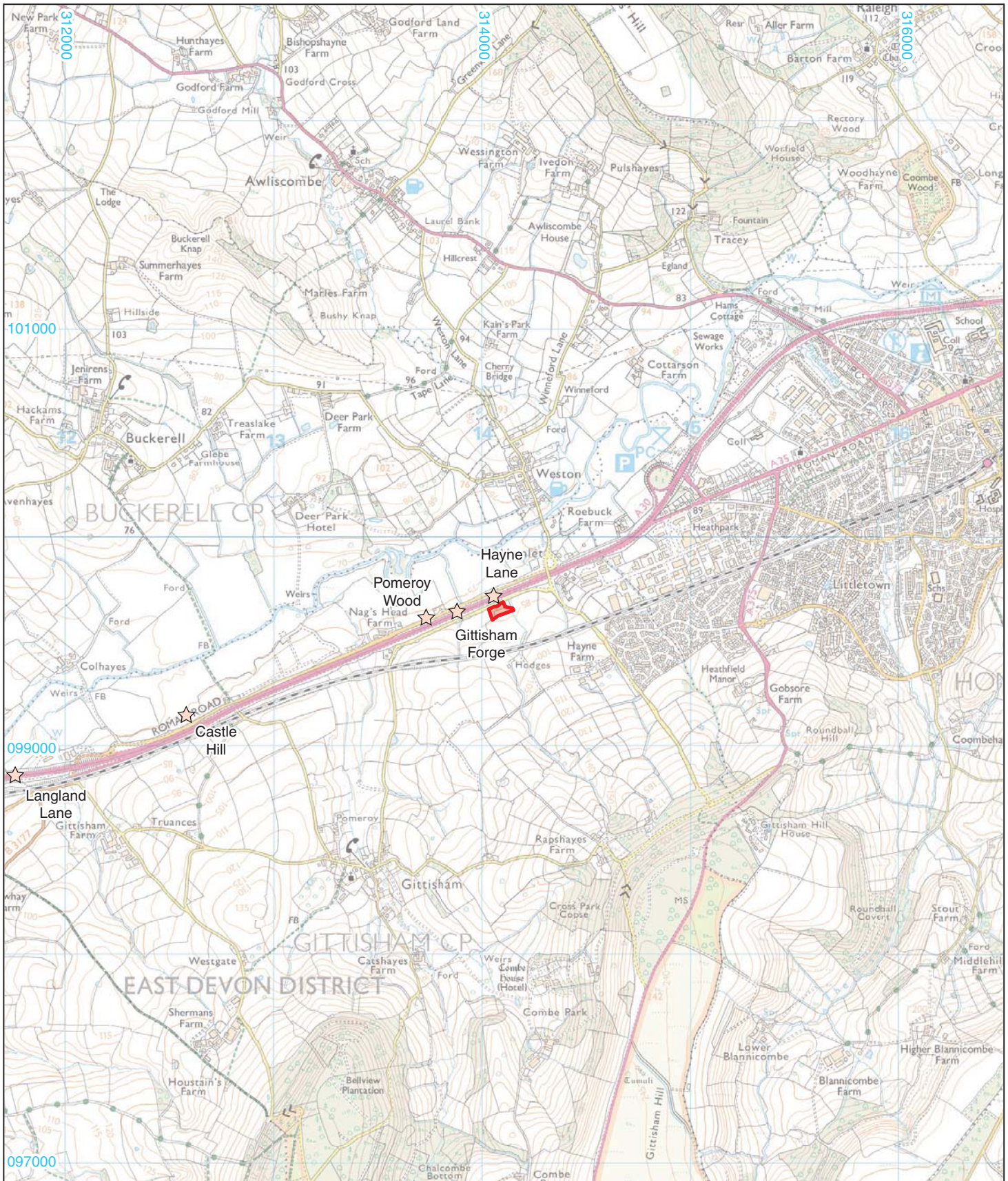
Table 5: Summary of Charred Plant Material and Charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Char-coal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Area 1													
Middle/Late Bronze Age Enclosure ditch													
918	919	1	35	100	70	*	-	Barley + hulled wheat grain frags	*	<i>Polygonum</i> , tuber	**/**	-	C
922	923	2	9	75	20	-	-	-	*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	***/**	-	C
927	929	3	40	75	70	-	-	-	*	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> stone, stem frag	**/**	-	C
Area 2													
Middle/Late Iron Age Roundhouse gully													
819	820	4	10	70	75	*	*	Indet. grain frags, glume base inc emmer	-	-	*/**	-	
821	822	5	10	10	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Undated internal postholes													
840	841	6	10	40	75	*	*	Indet. grain frags, culm node	*	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , stem frag	-/*	-	
804	805	7	6	25	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

APPENDIX G: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Excavation at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon
Short description	<p>Excavation targeted archaeological features identified by evaluation. Area 1 was located within the north-west corner of the site, and investigated a length of Middle and Late Bronze Age enclosure ditch. The remainder of this enclosure, situated immediately to the north-west of the site, had been investigated in 1996, in association with a road improvement scheme. Excavation revealed the south-eastern enclosure entrance, which had been predicted by an earlier geophysical survey. This was flanked by ditch terminals, each associated with matching alignments of post settings which appeared to represent a sequence of gate structures. A group of post or stake-holes on the south-eastern, external side of the entrance may represent associated fence-lines. The Bronze Age enclosure ditch cut an earlier, but undated, shallow ditch, of unknown function. This did not extend south of the enclosure ditch, although its projected course may be represented by two postholes on this side.</p> <p>Area 2 was located in the south-west corner of the site, and contained a penannular gully, which enclosed a number of pits and postholes. Collectively, these features represented a roundhouse of Middle/Late Iron Age date. Speculative interpretation of postholes and cut features within and around this roundhouse gully suggested that this may partly occupy the footprint of an earlier circular-plan building of comparable size. A small quantity of Roman pottery from Area 2 is probably intrusive.</p>
Project dates	
Project type	Excavation
Previous work	Geophysics (Fitzpatrick <i>et al.</i> , 1999) Evaluation (CA 2017)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Meadow View Nursery, Honiton , Devon
Study area (M ² /ha)	n/a
Site co-ordinates	NGR 314074 099657
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Devon County Council
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Derek Evans
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Austin
MONUMENT TYPE	Bronze Age ditched enclosure Iron Age roundhouse
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery

PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter ADS Digital Archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Pottery, Lithics charred plant remains??
Paper		Context sheets, plans, section drawings, registers, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos, geomatics data etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 Excavation at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon. Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design, CA Report No. 18203		



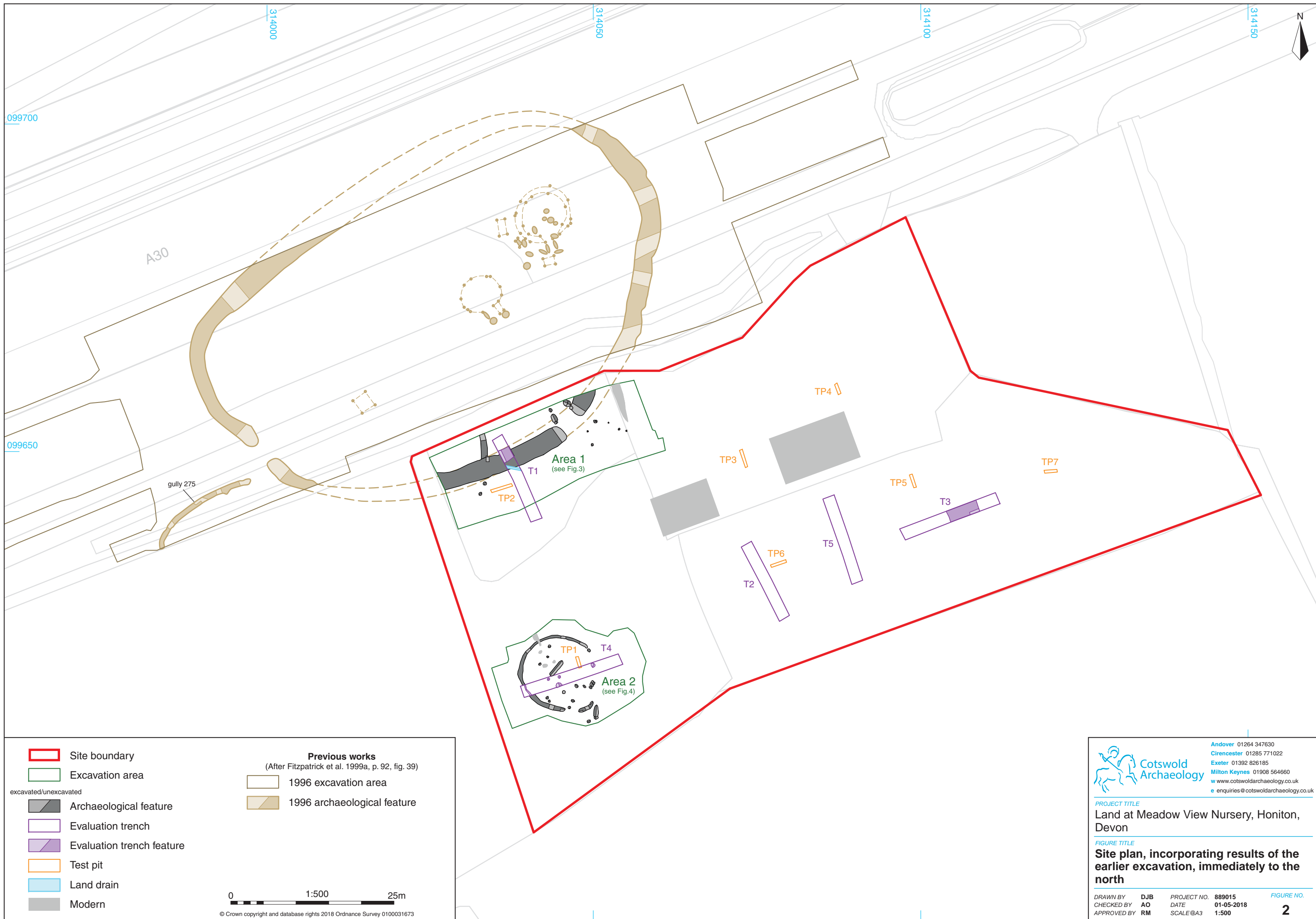
★ Contemporary sites excavated in 1996



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan



Site boundary

Excavation area

excavated/unexcavated

Archaeological feature

Evaluation trench

Evaluation trench feature

Test pit

Land drain

Modern

Previous works
(After Fitzpatrick et al. 1999a, p. 92, fig. 39)

1996 excavation area

1996 archaeological feature

0 1:500 25m

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Cotswold Archaeology

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan, incorporating results of the earlier excavation, immediately to the north

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CHECKED BY AO **DATE** 01-05-2018 **2**
APPROVED BY RM **SCALE@A3** 1:500



- Site boundary
 - Excavation area
 - Archaeological feature
 - Evaluation trench
 - Feature associated with evaluation trench
 - Test pit
 - Land drain
 - Modern
 - A Section location
- Previous works**
(After Fitzpatrick et al. 1999a, p. 92, fig. 39)
- 1996 excavation area
 - 1996 archaeological feature



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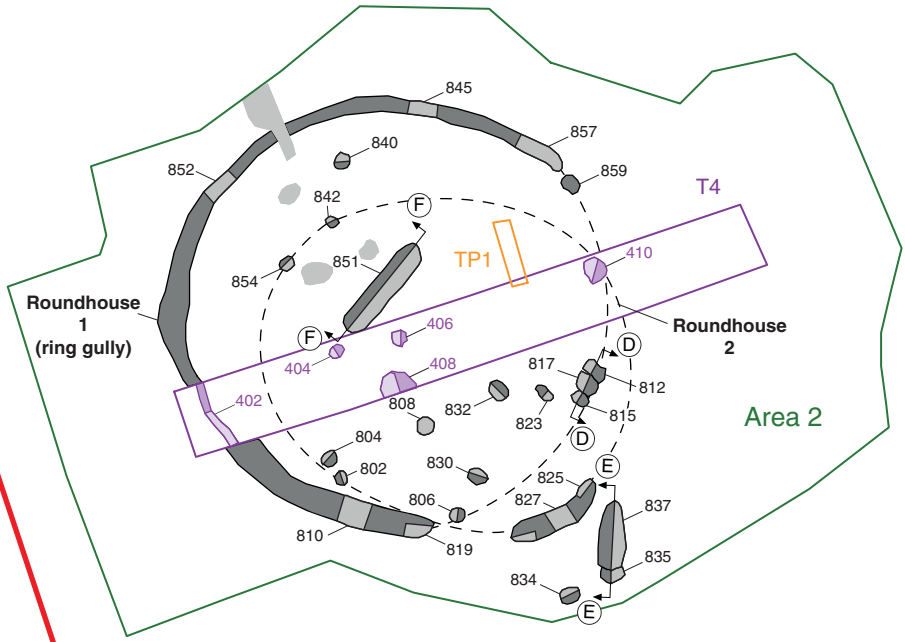
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon









FIGURE TITLE
Area 1: plan of excavated features

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<small>CHECKED BY</small> AO	<small>DATE</small> 02-05-2018	3
<small>APPROVED BY</small> RM	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200	

099625

314050



-  Site boundary
-  Excavation area
-  Archaeological feature
-  Evaluation trench
-  Feature associated with evaluation trench
-  Test pit
-  Modern
-  Section location



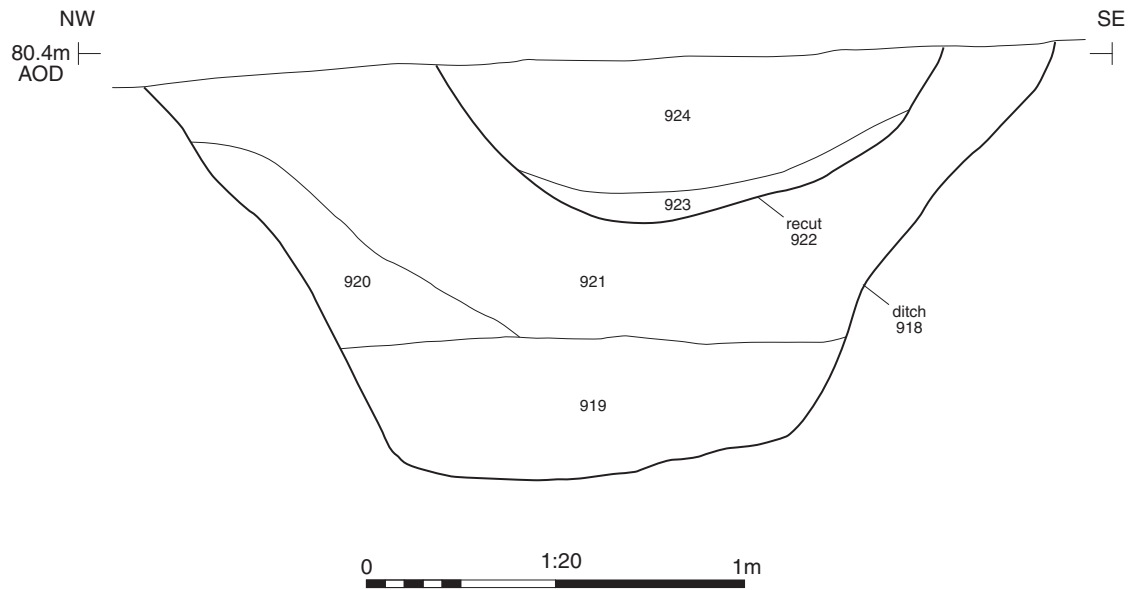
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE
Area 2: plan of excavated features

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Section AA



Ditch terminal 918, and possible recut 922, looking north-east (scales 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

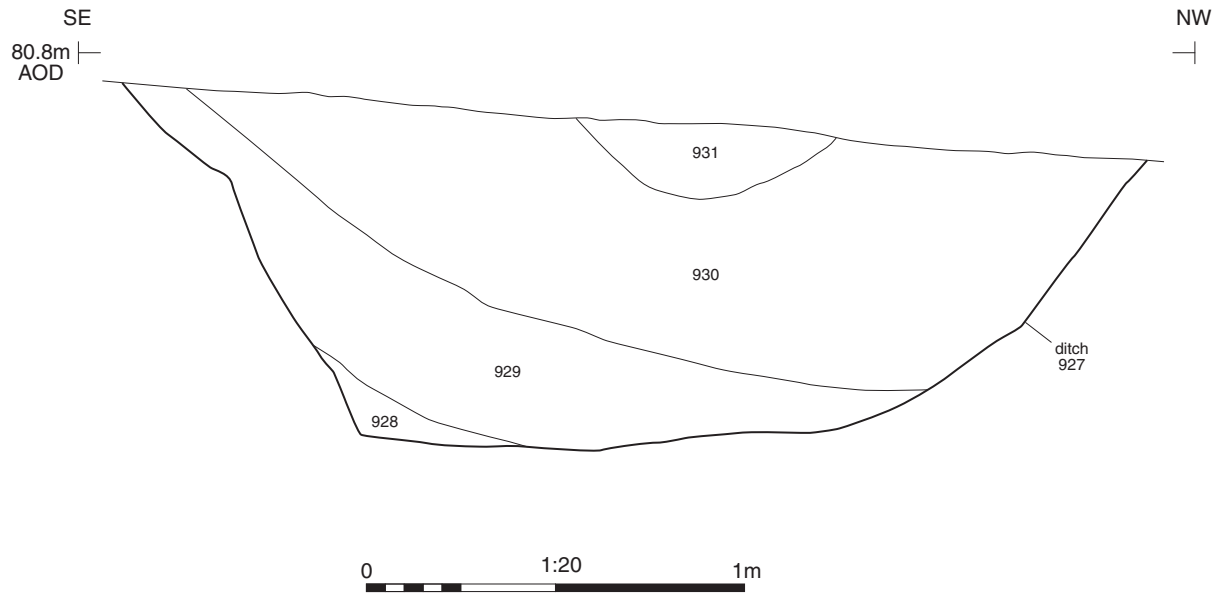
Area 1: south-west facing section of ditch terminal 918, and possible recut 922: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5

Section BB



Ditch terminal 927, looking south-west (scales 1m & 0.5m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Meadow View Nursery, Honiton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

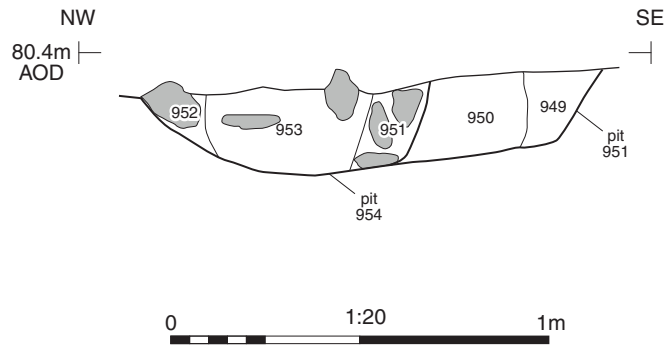
Area 1: North-east facing section of ditch terminal 927: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

6

Section CC



Intercutting pits 954 and 951, looking north-east (scales 0.5m)



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FIGURE TITLE

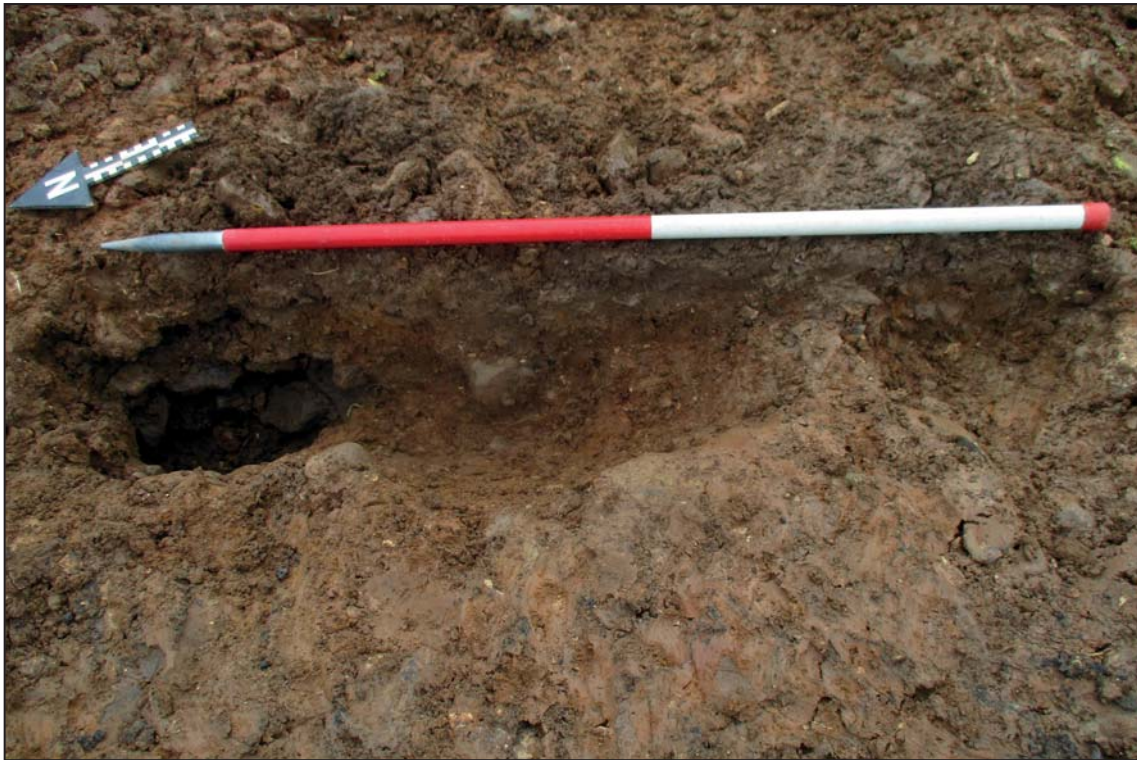
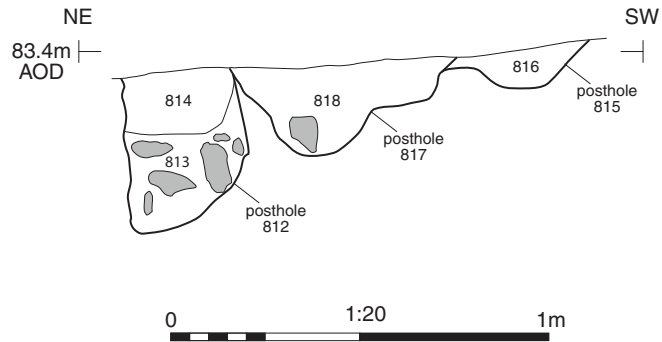
Area 1: south-west facing section of intercutting pits 954 and 951: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

7

Section DD



Postholes 812, 815 and 817, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

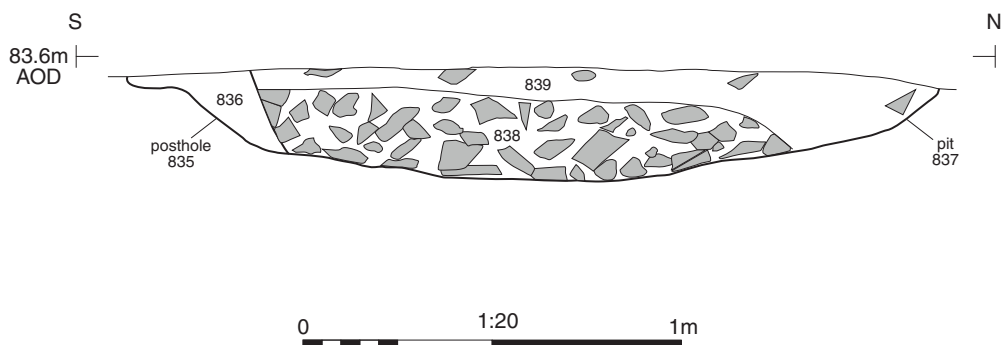
Area 2: North-west facing section of adjacent post holes 812, 815 and 817: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

8

Section EE



Posthole 835 and feature 837, looking west (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Area 2: East-facing section of posthole 835 and feature 837: section and photograph

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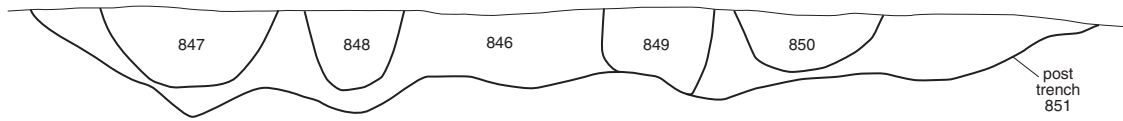
FIGURE NO.

9

Section FF

SW
83.3m
AOD

NE



0 1:20 1m



Feature 851, containing post settings 847, 848, 849 and 850, looking south-west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Area 2: south-east facing section of feature 851, containing post settings 847, 848, 849 and 850: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

10



Site clearance and demolition of earthwork bank in Area 1, looking north-west



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FIGURE TITLE

Area 1: photograph

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FIGURE NO.

11

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