



Watery Bay and Gateholm Island Pembrokeshire, Wales

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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**WATERY BAY RATH AND GATEHOLM,
PEMBROKESHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out archaeological recording and post-excavation analysis on an archaeological evaluation by Channel 4's 'Time Team' on Gateholm Island and Watery Bay Rath, Pembrokeshire, south-west Wales. Watery Bay Rath, a coastal promontory fort, is centred on NGR 176877, 207966 and Gateholm Island on NGR 177005, 207215. Both areas subject to investigation are designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest as part of the Dale and South Marloes SSSI. No archaeological work has previously taken place on Watery Bay Rath. In 1910, Gateholm was subject to a walk-over survey by T.C. Cantrill, who also excavated one of the 'huts', and a further house-site was later excavated by T.C. Lethbridge and H.E. David in 1926. In 1971 a complete survey of the structural remains of Gateholm Island was undertaken.

The Time Team evaluation comprised 12 trenches, four located on Gateholm Island and a further eight located within the Watery Bay Rath and its surroundings. The archaeological deposits on Gateholm proved difficult to interpret, and inconclusive as to their function and date, due to their ephemeral nature and the lack of any dating evidence. A possible wall belonging to one of the cell structures, and a number of post-holes that may also have been associated with the structures, were encountered. A possible turf-built wall was found, with an earlier structural phase beneath, including packing for a post-hole and a possible floor surface.

At Watery Bay Rath, the innermost bank of the fort is likely to have been built with a revetment, and sealed a feature suggesting earlier occupation. The other banks do not appear to have been built in the same way as the innermost bank; on the eastern side of the fort, the bank had been built up with large stones, and the ditch cut into the natural bed rock. Inside the fort, archaeological deposits were well preserved; however, due to the small size of the trenches, interpreting the various features encountered proved difficult, although they did present general evidence of habitation.

The area to the north of the fort featured only modern field boundaries and palaeochannels, but limited fieldwalking (surface artefact collection) within the area did produce scatters of Mesolithic activity.

The evaluation has contributed a small amount of information to our understanding of the two monuments, which could be augmented by a limited programme of further analysis on the palaeoenvironmental data, including the submission of two samples for radiocarbon dating. It is recommended that a short report, summarising the results of the evaluation, is prepared for publication in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*.

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The evaluation and all subsequent post-excavation work, was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank all the staff at Videotext, and in particular Jobim Sampson (Series Editor), Val Croft (Head of Production), Alex Rowson (Assistant Producer), Anne Sutton (Researcher) and Katy Daykin (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The excavation was undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Ian Powlesland, Matt Williams, Raksha Dave, Cassie Newland and local archaeologists Marion Page, Tom Jamieson, Catherine Rees, Matt Jones, Helen Whitear, Menna Bell, Peter Crane and Ken Murphy. Local metal detectorist Jack Tree also provided much help and support. The geophysical survey was undertaken by Claire Stephens, Emma Wood and Kate Hoggard. The recording, finds co-ordination and finds processing was undertaken by Simon Flaherty and Benjamin Cullen, both of Wessex Archaeology. Finds identification on site was undertaken by Danielle Wootton (Finds Liaison Officer Exeter).

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Simon Flaherty, with specialist reports by Phil Harding (worked flint and stone) and Lorraine Mephram (all other finds), and with geological identifications by Kevin Hayward (freelance specialist). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mephram.

Thanks must be extended to the people who helped to initiate the project: Polly Groom (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, CADW) and Claudine Gerrard (National Trust Archaeologist) who acted on behalf of the National Trust who are the landowners of the Site.

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Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to carry out the recording and post-excavation analysis for an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' on the sites Gateholm Island and Watery Bay Rath in Pembrokeshire, south-west Wales (hereafter the 'Site', **Figures 1 and 2**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of the archaeological investigations undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of these results.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Watery Bay Rath is located at NGR SM 176877, 207966 and Gateholm Island is centred on NGR SM 177005, 207215, both at a height of approximately 50m aOD. The underlying geology consists of Old Red Sandstone, Carboniferous Limestone formations, and intrusive igneous rock, as well as Coal Measures of the South Pembrokeshire coalfield (BGS Sheet E227). The sites are approximately 4km north-west of Dale and approximately 2.5km south-west of Marloes on the Pembrokeshire coast (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 Watery Bay Rath is described by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) as follows:

A cliff-enclosure, defined by a series of three banks and ditched to the north and north-east; traces of a 1.0m wide rubble wall have been noted on the crest of the inner bank, thought also to have been revetted internally; there is a causewayed entrance at the south-eastern end of the defences: the internal area is at present only 40m by 62m.

Field visit by T. Driver and L. Barker on 22nd Oct 2009 confirmed survival of an earthwork bank along the inner edge of the cliff slope suggesting that we are seeing the original form and limits of the interior; coastal erosion appears slowed or negligible due to the lie of the bedding planes of rock. The stream on the south-east side of the fort also appears to have been enclosed within the defences of the fort with the addition of a free-standing length of bank and ditch beyond the stream to the south-east.

1.2.3 Gateholm is described by the RCAHMW as follows:

The generally level summit area of Gateholm, a half-tide islet, roughly 500m by up to 100m, shows the earthwork remains of a settlement, comprising about 110 rectangular structures. The structures are organised into courts and rows and access to the isle appears to have been controlled by a rampart and gate at its north-western tip, facing the mainland, a further stretch of bank occurs along the northern edge of the summit area. The gateway appears to have been a mortared-stone structure. Limited explorations of structures in the interior (Cantrill,

Archaeologia Cambrensis, 1910; Lethbridge & David, Archaeologia Cambrensis, 1930), produced a range of finds, including nails & burnt stone: the best known structure, or compartment, was about 6.0m north-south by 3.0-3.6m internally, defined by a turf wall about 1.0m thick with an internal drystone revetment & featured a hearth & two postholes thought to represent roof support. Overall, the finds point to late-Roman to early medieval occupation, with some earlier material, whilst possible thirteenth century pottery may hint at a dating context for the mortared gate structure. (RCAHMW, 17 February 2009)

- 1.2.4 Both areas subject to investigation are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest as part of the Dale and South Marloes SSSI. The land is currently under pasture.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background forms part of the project design (Videotext Communications 2011), and a synopsis is presented here.

1.4 Watery Bay Rath

- 1.4.1 Watery Bay Rath has not been subject to invasive archaeological work in the past. However, a recent project focusing on the use of remote sensing data, including aerial photography and historic mapping, of defended enclosures/promontory forts, took place in 2008/2009, carried out by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

- 1.4.2 The study concluded that Watery Bay is a multivallate coastal promontory fort, one of a considerable number of such forts in Pembrokeshire (Barker and Driver 2011, fig. 1). Its western and southern sides are protected by high sea cliffs, its northern and eastern sides are defended by three lines of curving bank and ditch. The inner bank is the most substantial and is flanked by an outer ditch, then a small central bank, a second ditch, a third bank and finally an outer ditch. The whole system is c. 115m long and 35m wide. A natural gully runs along the eastern side of the site; the defences stop short of this gully providing a simple entrance. A low bank curving along the cliff top on the east side of the interior seems to be part of the defensive circuit, and is an indication that the original form and limits of the fort's interior survive (*ibid.*, 79). The interior is level and measures 60m E-W and 45m N-S; it is assumed that some has been lost to the sea. The site is under rough grass with bramble and bracken over the banks (Page 2009).

1.5 Gateholm Island

- 1.5.1 Gateholm has been investigated twice in the first half and once in the latter half of the 20th century. T.C. Cantrill of the Geological Society of London conducted the first investigation (Cantrill 1910). Following a description of the island and its setting, Cantrill described the structures on the site as consisting of two paths which provided access from the shore to the plateau; an entrance, flanked on one side by masonry and guarded by a platform, giving access to the plateau; a low earthen bank encircling the plateau; and numerous hut foundations.

- 1.5.2 Cantrill counted over 130 huts, scattered over the plateau and 'disposed singly, or in rows, or as a border to smaller yards and paddocks'. He described a typical hut as consisting of an earthen bank, 2ft or 3ft wide (0.61-0.92m) and 1ft or 18 inches high (0.31-0.46m), enclosing a small

space, and a typical 'yard' as a series of small cells surrounding an open space, bounded by earthen banks. In the centre of what might be considered a central range was a larger cell with two entrances (Cantrill 1910, figs 7-8).

- 1.5.3 Cantrill recovered a number of finds during his walk-over survey of the site, and then, having identified a concentration of finds around a group of hut sites (including a coin of Carausius), resolved to investigate further by excavation. This revealed further details of the construction of one of the huts, the wall showing signs of a facing of dry rubble masonry. Finds from this hut included a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead, other worked flint flakes, cores and chips, a fragment of slickstone, numerous 'potboilers' (burnt flints), round pebbles, animal bone, iron nails, bolts and other objects, fragments of iron slag or clinker, several fragments of glass vessel, and numerous pottery sherds.
- 1.5.4 Cantrill concluded that the evidence for Neolithic settlement was not unexpected, given the position of the site, so well suited for defensive purposes. The majority of the finds, however, were Romano-British, and Cantrill dated the pottery largely to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, and thought that the uniformity of the settlement reflected a rapid growth after establishment, and a lack of rebuilding.
- 1.5.5 Cantrill's initial investigation of Gateholm was not followed up for another twenty years until, in 1930, T.C. Lethbridge and H.E. David conducted a more detailed survey and a small excavation (Lethbridge and David 1930). Lethbridge noted that a number of additional finds to those reported by Cantrill were recovered from the island and reported in *Archaeologica Cambrensis* in 1926. These included Romano-British pottery, a 'few coins', flints, and a bronze stag 'which appears to represent Etruscan work'. Lethbridge approached the site with a number of questions: who were the people? Why did they choose such an exposed home? When did they come? And when did the settlement come to an end?
- 1.5.6 Lethbridge's excavations focused on the larger cell within the group of structures originally planned by Cantrill, and which Cantrill thought might have been the dwelling of an important personage (1910, figs 7-8). Lethbridge found that this hut (approximately 6m by 3m) had been constructed by cutting the turf and using it as a bank around the hut. This bank was then faced with undressed stones, arranged in courses of dry walling. The two entrances noted by Cantrill were set in the middle of each of the longer walls, and the doorways had been formed by setting large slabs of stone on edge, which had probably carried a wooden lintel. Small pits at each end of the hut may have formed sockets for uprights to support the ridgepole of the hut. A stone phallus was found in one of these pits. There was a central hearth, and a small area neatly paved with beach pebbles in the north-west corner. One sherd of wheelthrown pottery was found, identified as Romano-British, but 'numerous flint flakes' were also found throughout the occupation layer, as well as a small perforated bone, a broken shale ring and a bronze pin with a faceted head, dated to the 6th century AD. Lethbridge concluded on this basis that the hut was 'definitely post-Roman and probably well into the Dark Ages'.

1.5.7 The next piece of work conducted at Gateholm took place in 1971 when heavy snow allowed a complete survey to be made of the structural remains on the island (Davies *et al.* 1972, fig. 11). Further details were supplied by an aerial photograph of 1946. The survey identified a number of buildings set in rows, subdivided into about 110 compartments, and approached by a path leading through a low bank – based on these numbers, a total population of 150-250 was suggested, and the settlement was interpreted as a monastic establishment, possibly the largest surviving Early Christian monastic settlement in Britain.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2011), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.

2.1.2 The following specific research aims were proposed for Watery Bay Rath:

- To establish the monument's date of construction and its chronological development.
- To establish the nature of construction of the monument and to identify the methods of construction and if there was remodelling or expansion of the site.
- To identify the nature of occupation within the monument and its hinterland, by determining whether the site was occupied seasonally or permanently.
- Did the fort contain evidence that it was re-used within the medieval period?

2.1.3 The following specific research aims were proposed for Gateholm:

- To identify the date the monument was constructed and to ascertain its chronological development.
- To determine the nature of construction of the monument. The structural remains at Gateholm have previously demonstrated varying techniques of construction (stone-built versus turf-built) and appeared to be constructed on different orientations; therefore did this represent a developmental sequence for the Site?
- To confirm the nature of the occupation of the monument and to establish the function of the structural remains present. Furthermore, was there evidence of prehistoric occupation of the Site?

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Topographic Survey

3.1.1 The survey focused on areas within and surrounding Watery Bay Rath and Gateholm. Work was carried out using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS

survey system by GSB Prospection Ltd. The survey accurately recorded the precise locations of the evaluation trenches and the geophysical survey grid.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

3.2.1 Geophysical survey work was carried on the mainland only (Areas 1-3), covering an area of c. 2.7 hectares, and using magnetic (gradiometer) survey. No survey was undertaken on Gateholm Island. The survey grid was tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system. The results were analysed using a mixture of GSB and commercial software.

3.3 Evaluation trenches

3.3.1 A total of 12 trenches were excavated (Trenches 1-4; 7-14; trench numbers 5 and 6 were not used). Four machine-dug trenches were placed outside the scheduled area of Watery Bay Rath, with a further four hand-dug trenches located within the fort. Four hand-dug trenches were located on Gateholm Island. A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and working under constant archaeological supervision removed the overburden from all the machine-dug trenches. Machining ceased as soon as significant archaeological deposits were identified. The trenches were cleaned by hand with limited sampling of the underlying archaeological deposits. All spoil arising from the evaluation trenches was scanned by an experienced metal detectorist.

3.3.2 All contexts and features were recorded using standard Wessex Archaeology *pro-forma* record sheets. A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits was made, usually at a scale of 1:20; sections were drawn as appropriate. The OD height of all principal strata and features was indicated on the appropriate plans and sections. A Photographic record of the investigations and individual features was also prepared. All trenches were related to the National Grid/Ordnance Datum by local control.

3.3.3 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.3.4 The work was carried out between 5-8 August 2011. The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

3.4 Fieldwalking

3.4.1 A small area to the north of Watery Bay Rath, which had been recently ploughed, was subjected to surface artefact collection (fieldwalking) to look for areas of archaeological interest through finds densities.

3.4.2 The area was divided into 10m square grids (see **Figure 1**) and 10 minutes was allocated for finds retrieval within each square.

3.5 Copyright

3.5.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright, or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited

reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2011), of which a summary is presented below, and all artefactual and environmental data are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Survey (Figure 3)

Area 1 (Watery Bay Rath)

4.2.1 A number of small scale anomalies have been identified in this area. They have a signature which could equally indicate archaeological deposits, natural variations or, in some cases, deeply buried ferrous debris. Although the immediate context might favour an archaeological interpretation, none of the responses forms a clear, well-defined pattern that would suggest discrete archaeological features (the limited size of the survey area has not helped in this regard). The most coherent of these anomalies are classified as *?Archaeology* although, based on the geophysics alone, a degree of uncertainty is attached to this interpretation. The remainder are classified as *Uncertain Origin*.

4.2.2 Anomalies A and B were investigated by excavation (Trenches 8 and 7 respectively) and archaeological features confirmed. This would add extra weight to an archaeological origin for some of the other magnetic anomalies; nonetheless, little more can be gleaned from the geophysics results as to their precise nature or function.

Area 2 (fort environs)

4.2.3 This dataset is dominated by two sinuous bands of strong positive/negative responses C and D that are characteristic of former stream channels. The two converge at the south-eastern corner of the field, on an alignment that suggests they would have joined with the existing stream. Their potential significance rests on the question of whether or not they were active watercourses at any time during the occupation of the fort and/or the island. Excavation over the junction of the two stream beds (Trench 14) did not find any evidence of human activity at that location; however, the streams form a major focal point in the landscape and may help to explain the presence of the fort.

4.2.4 Other strong sinuous responses are located along the western edge of the grid; these too are likely to be natural in origin.

4.2.5 The remainder of the survey area is characterised by a weak 'mottled' effect, suggestive of natural deposits. Several comparatively weak linear and pit type anomalies and weaker trends have been highlighted on the interpretation, all classified as *Uncertain Origin*. Although the immediate context and the negative evidence from excavation would tend to favour a

natural explanation, fieldwalking across part of this area revealed a few worked flints. There is, therefore, a remote possibility that any one of these anomalies, however weak, might have an anthropogenic origin. They could reflect ephemeral activity, or recent or historic agricultural practices.

Area 3 (land opposite Gateholm Island)

- 4.2.6 A small sample block of data were collected in the field immediately opposite Gateholm Island - as close as was safely possible to the cliff edge - to assess whether any significant archaeological features were present at this location.
- 4.2.7 Two relatively well-defined linear anomalies might be of archaeological interest, having a ditch-type form. However, they share an alignment that is parallel with the existing boundary to the east and several former boundaries shown on early OS mapping. It is therefore possible that they reflect features or agricultural practices associated with this later activity. What can be said about these two anomalies is that they are not suggestive of a settlement site, trackway or any other approach to the island.
- 4.2.8 Several other small, pit-type anomalies and trends are highlighted as *Uncertain Origin*; none of these form obvious archaeological patterns and a combination of natural, agricultural and modern origins are favoured.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

- 4.3.1 Twelve trenches were excavated (**Figure 1**). Four trenches were located on Gateholm Island (Trenches 1-4). These targeted elements of the settlement as surveyed in 1971 (Davies *et al.* 1972, fig. 11; **Figure 4**). Specifically, Trenches 1-3 were placed over the putative pathway and flanking buildings in the north-east part of the island, while Trench 4 was located over a circular structure to the south-east, identified as a possible round-house.
- 4.3.2 Trenches 7 and 8 were located within the interior of Watery Bay Rath, and targeted geophysical anomalies (**Figure 3**). The aim of Trenches 10 and 12 was to investigate the nature of construction of the monument and to address the question of chronological development. Trenches 9, 11, 13 and 14 were placed on the land north of the fort, based on the geophysical results, to examine the archaeological context of the surrounding area.
- 4.3.3 The topsoils across both sites varied between 0.13m – 0.35m in depth. Within the fort, Trenches 7 and 8 produced two subsoils, one largely devoid of inclusions, and survived to depths between 0.13m to 0.36m. Further subsoil survived between 0.36m -0.50m, containing medium to large, angular to sub-angular, poorly sorted stones. On Gateholm Island, the subsoil lay at depths of between 0.18m to 0.42m.
- 4.3.4 The natural geology varied across the two sites. On Gateholm Island it consisted of red-grey angular shillet sandstone. The trenches in and around Watery Bay Rath consisted of a yellow-brown sandy clay, and in the trenches to the north of the monument this also contained veins of manganese.

Gateholm Island (Figure 4)

Trench 1 (Figure 5)

- 4.3.5 Trench 1 lay over a range of cell-like structures. The possible southern wall of the building was located (**104**). This was not particularly clear, but appeared to run from north-east to south-west, and consisted of a single course of roughly hewn, angular sandstone blocks, recorded for a length of 1.06m within the trench, and with a width of 0.72m (**Figure 5, Plate 2**). There was no visible bonding agent and was probably of dry stone construction. The later collapse or demolition of this possible wall spread across the southern half of the trench (**105**).
- 4.3.6 Other archaeological features observed within the trench consisted of three post-holes, and possible internal and external floor surfaces.
- 4.3.7 A thin layer (**102**) extended across the south-east end of the trench, possibly indicating a floor surface; a small group of late Romano-British pottery was recovered from this layer. This lay within the possible cell structure, to the north-west of wall **104**. Beneath **102**, layer **108** may have formed a bedding layer for this possible surface. A second possible surface (**107**) lay to the south-east of wall **104**, i.e. outside the building. Only a small extent of this layer was visible (**Figure 5**, section) and it survived to a depth of only 0.06m. This layer was tentatively identified as part of the possible pathway (but see below, Trench 2).
- 4.3.8 One post-hole (**109**) was located beneath the possible path surface (**107**) and was fairly small. Its close proximity to a second post-hole (**111**), of similar size, suggests that they are likely to have been related; possibly they formed part of a fence line or structure. Post-hole **109** contained a piece of prehistoric pottery but, as the post had been removed and the resulting hole silted up, it is possible that the sherd was residual. A third, less convincing post-hole (**113**), was cut into wall **104**.

Trench 2

- 4.3.9 Trench 2 aimed to investigate the possible pathway running through the centre of the site (**Figure 4**).
- 4.3.10 No archaeological deposits were found within this trench. As no surface was identified, this may cast doubt upon the assumption that layer **107** within Trench 1 was part of a surface or trackway.

Trench 3 (Figure 6)

- 4.3.11 Trench 3 was positioned upon a southern range of cell structures identified during the 1971 survey, in order to assess the validity of the published plan.
- 4.3.12 Archaeological features identified within Trench 3 consisted of four possible post-holes (or stake-holes) and a ditch. The latter feature (**312**) ran in a north-east to south-west direction and is likely to have been associated with the wing of cell structures seen in the 1971 survey. The ditch was not fully excavated, but was at least 0.74m deep (**Figure 6**, section). The single very stony fill (**313**) contained no dating evidence.
- 4.3.13 Three of the four post-holes (**304**, **306** and **308**) were very similar in size, ranging between 0.20m and 0.12m in diameter, and all were very shallow

with a maximum depth of 0.05m. These were not overly convincing as archaeological features and may instead have been the result of root action. Post-hole **304** contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery and burnt flint with some charcoal flecking, but this could have been residual.

- 4.3.14 A fourth post-hole (**310**) was cut into the top of ditch **312**. This was larger than the other three post-holes, with a diameter of 0.38m, but just as shallow (depth 0.05m). The ephemeral nature of the feature and lack of finds makes it unclear whether it was of archaeological or natural origin.

Trench 4 (Figure 7)

- 4.3.15 Trench 4 was positioned over a possible circular structure identified during on the 1971 survey, in the south-western part of Gateholm Island (**Figure 4**; note that the trench does not correspond with the Ordnance Survey mapping at this point). Due to its shape, this feature was thought to be a possible prehistoric roundhouse.
- 4.3.16 The trench contained a bank (**411**) running in a roughly north-east to south-west direction within the excavated area (**Figure 7, Plate 4**). This bank appeared to be turf-built although the evidence for this was inconclusive. It contained possible internal (**406**) and external surfaces (**404**).
- 4.3.17 An earlier phase of occupation can be seen sealed beneath this bank structure. This includes another possible surface (**408**) and, at the western edge of this surface, a post-hole (**410**) (**Figure 7, Plate 4**), although of this only the stone packing was visible rather than any cut.

Watery Bay Rath

Trench 7 (Figure 8)

- 4.3.18 Trench 7 was dug across an internal bank of the fort, and was targeted on a geophysical anomaly (**Figure 3**, anomaly B).
- 4.3.19 A metallated surface (**705**) was found to correspond to the geophysical anomaly, extending across the eastern part of the trench, and consisting of small, tightly-packed stones (**Figure 8, Plate 5**). The surface lay below subsoil layers **702** and **703**, and appeared to be set into possible bedding layer **704**. The full extent of the surface is unknown, and it therefore remains unclear whether it was a floor layer for a structure, or fulfilled some other function.

Trench 8 (Figure 9)

- 4.3.20 Trench 8 was also placed within the interior of the fort, with the intention of investigating the nature of the occupation of the site, and was targeted upon a geophysical anomaly (**Figure 3**, anomaly A).
- 4.3.21 A partially exposed feature within the north-east corner of Trench 8 (**Group Number 815**) could have been a gully for a roundhouse but was more probably a large pit. It appears to have been deliberately backfilled when it had gone out of use.
- 4.3.22 After this, a small square stone structure (**804**) was built within **815**. The structure was incomplete but consisted of a tightly packed flat sandstone base with a large upright flat slab forming one side wall (**Figure 9, Plate 7**).

This box or trough measured 1.10m by 0.90m with a height of 0.22m. The function remains unclear; it could have been a hearth, but magnetic susceptibility testing over the feature did not indicate any burning. It may have been clay-lined and used for water storage, but no evidence for this was recovered, and in any case it seems an unlikely function, given the presence of the stream running along the eastern side of the site (see **Figure 1**).

4.3.23 The only other feature noted within the trench was a gully (**806**) aligned north to south, slightly curved and very shallow (**Figure 9, Plate 8**). It was only partially exposed and extended beyond the southern edge of the trench. It appears to have been deliberately backfilled with a stony fill (**807**). It was tentatively interpreted as a ring gully, but it appears too wide (1.38m), shallow and irregularly shaped.

4.3.24 None of the features in Trench 8 produced any definitive dating evidence; the only finds recovered comprised worked flint and some possibly utilised stone.

Trench 9 (not illustrated)

4.3.25 Trench 9 was located to the north of the fort, targeted on a number of geophysical anomalies (**Figure 3**). A further defensive ditch associated with the fort might have been expected in this area.

4.3.26 The topsoil in this trench (**901**) directly overlay the natural geology (**902**). The magnetic anomalies within the geophysical results were found to have been created by manganese staining within the natural geology. A small possible treethrow was observed, but was not recorded.

Trench 10 (Figure 10)

4.3.27 Trench 10 was located across the innermost bank on the western side of the fort. It was hoped that this trench would yield information relating to the nature of the construction of the monument.

4.3.28 The bank (**Group Number 1012**) appeared to consist of a possible revetment (**1003**) that was cut into a pre-existing layer of redeposited natural material and bank deposit (**1002**). The revetment, although pushed outwards over time, appears to have been constructed of large stone blocks, with the bank built up behind it. This sealed pre-existing ground surfaces **1011** and **1005**. The revetment and bank probably formed a single phase of construction.

4.3.29 Surfaces **1011** and **1005** in turn sealed a possible 'scoop' (**1007**). This 'scoop', in the south-west corner of the trench, was not fully exposed, nor fully excavated within the trench, and its overall shape remains uncertain. It contained a thin layer of burning within the edge of the cut (**1008**). This feature was tentatively interpreted a shallow scoop for a roundhouse. Although it did not yield any finds, it demonstrates activity on the Site before the construction of at least some of the earthworks.

Trench 11 (Figure 12, Plate 11)

- 4.3.30 Trench 11 was targeted upon a high magnetic anomaly from the geophysical data in the north-west corner of the site, in an attempt to explore the landscape surrounding the immediate vicinity of the fort.
- 4.3.31 The machine-excavated trench revealed topsoil (**1101**) lying directly over the sandy clay natural (**1102**). The natural contained abundant amounts of manganese, thus explaining the geophysical anomalies.

Trench 12 (Figure 11)

- 4.3.32 Trench 12 lay over the eastern side of the defensive earthworks, overlooking the stream that runs along the eastern side of the fort.
- 4.3.33 This trench revealed a different construction process from that observed for the inner bank in Trench 10. Beneath the topsoil (**1201**), the bank was built up by the deposition of large angular stones (**1202**) on the inner side of the fort, and the ditch was dug into the natural bedrock (**1203**). The bank layer (**1202**) was not excavated, neither was its eastern extent fully exposed (**Figure 11, Plate 10**).

Trench 13 (Figure 12, Plate 12)

- 4.3.34 Trench 13 lay to the north of the fort, and was targeted on a large curving magnetic anomaly (**Figure 3**).
- 4.3.35 The trench did not contain any archaeological features, but a palaeochannel (**1303**) with a width of 2.35m and 0.51m deep was recorded, corresponding to the geophysical anomaly. From the geophysical results, the palaeochannel appears to head south-eastwards towards the current stream bed that runs through the eastern side of the fort.

Trench 14 (Figure 12, Plate 13)

- 4.3.36 Trench 14 was targeted on the convergence of two magnetic anomalies (**Figure 3**), one being a continuation of the palaeochannel observed within Trench 13, recorded in Trench 14 as **1404**. The geophysical results showed a second possible palaeochannel (**1403**) to the north-west of 1404. Neither of these features was excavated.
- 4.3.37 Two ditches were also exposed within the trench, both running in a roughly north-west to south-east direction (**1405** and **1406**). These represented the moving of a modern field boundary, and the features were not excavated.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a very small quantity of finds, including items of prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval date. Very few of the finds recovered, however, have provided close dating.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by trench, and from the fieldwalking to the north of the fort, are given in **Table 1**. No finds were recovered from Trenches 2, 9 and 12. All finds have subsequently been at least visually scanned, in order to provide basic identifications, and to ascertain the date range where possible. This section

discusses the finds briefly within their local and regional context, and assesses their potential to contribute to an understanding of the Sites, with particular reference to the construction and development of the fort, and the date range and nature of the occupation on Gateholm Island.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 The small pottery assemblage (22 sherds) includes sherds of prehistoric, Romano-British and modern date.

Prehistoric

5.2.2 Five sherds, all from Gateholm Island (Trenches 1 and 3), are prehistoric. Three sherds from subsoil **302**, and one from post-hole **109**, are coarsely tempered with prominent (igneous) rock inclusions; a fourth sherd from post-hole **304** also contains igneous rock inclusions (slightly less prominent) and sparse quartz grains.

5.2.3 All five are undiagnostic body sherds, and the fabric types are not particularly chronologically distinctive, but it may be suggested that the coarse fabric of the sherds in subsoil **302** would not be out of place within a Neolithic ceramic tradition although, equally, it could be later (perhaps Bronze Age). The sherds from post-holes **109** and **304** seem more likely to be of Late Bronze Age date. All five sherds, however, are small and abraded, and cannot be regarded as providing firm dating evidence for the contexts in which they occurred.

Romano-British

5.2.4 A small group of 14 sherds from possible internal floor surface **102** in Trench 1 are Romano-British. These comprise one plain body sherd of South-East Dorset Black Burnished ware; ten fine oxidised ware sherds, originally red-slipped; two joining sherds from a round-bodied, externally flanged bowl in a fine, slightly micaceous oxidised fabric; and a small body sherd in a medium-grained sandy fabric.

5.2.5 The red-slipped sherds include at least three from a bowl copying samian form 36 and one plain body sherd with a single, rounded, translucent quartz ?trituration grit surviving. Grits such as this are a characteristic of mortaria produced by the late Roman Oxfordshire industry – the fabric of all these sherds is also in keeping with products from this region which are known to have reached south Wales during the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD (Young 1977, figs 40-52). The bowl is a Young form C47, dated to c. AD 240-400+.

5.2.6 The micaceous fabric of the two joining sherds contains rare quartz, red/black ferrous particles and rounded, speckled, rock inclusions. A similar fabric was identified at Pomeroy Wood, near Axminster, Devon (Seager Smith 1999, 298, fabric M103). This ware is presumably related to the more common South-western grey wares (*ibid.*, 310, fabrics Q103 and Q123) which have a similar range of inclusions and which are found widely in Devon (e.g. Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 171 and 175; Holbrook 1993, 97; Silvester and Bidwell 1984, 41) and south Somerset (e.g. Leach 1982, fig. 73; Seager Smith 2005). These wares may have been made in the area of the Norton Fitzwarren hillfort (Timby 1989, 54, figs 22 and 23) to the west of Taunton, between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Although not an

uncommon form, a similar flanged bowl is known in this ware from Pomeroy Wood (Seager Smith 1999, fig. 157, R155).

Post-Medieval

5.2.7 The remaining five sherds are post-medieval, and include coarse earthenwares (one sgraffito ware and one gravel-tempered, both from the North Devon production centre), Staffordshire-type trailed slipware, and modern refined whiteware. These sherds came from Trenches 7 (subsoil) and 10 (topsoil).

5.3 Stone

5.3.1 A fragment of a perforated stone implement was picked up from the surface of the open ground north of the Watery Bay promontory fort. This form of shaft hole implement is difficult to classify with confidence, falling between those classified as pebble mace head or pebble hammer, both of which share similar characteristics; however the presence of an area of hammering favours placing this implement with those classified as a pebble hammer (Roe 1979). The fragment comprises half of the implement, apparently made from a flat, oval, water worn pebble, of uncertain geology, through which an hour glass perforation has been drilled. The geology of the pebble is uncertain although it is similar in many respects to some greenstone implements. The implement has fractured in half through the centre of the perforation. A small area of pecked hammering, which has flattened the profile of the hammer is present on one edge.

5.3.2 This form of implement and date of manufacture is notoriously difficult to place with confidence. A number have been found with Mesolithic material and it may therefore be associated with the worked flint in the immediate area. However other examples of this implement type have been found with later material. The date of manufacture of these pieces may also be debated as they may represent recycled objects. There is no strong evidence for subsequent activity at Watery Bay between the Mesolithic and the Iron Age periods.

5.3.3 Only one other deliberately worked stone object was identified – a possible quern fragment in an igneous rock from the fort (subsoil **802** in Trench 8).

5.3.4 The rest of the stone recovered largely comprises rounded pebbles in a variety of shapes and sizes, but none showing any convincing signs of utilisation. A small quantity of unworked, burnt stone was also recovered.

5.4 Worked Flint

Introduction

5.4.1 The assemblage (**Table 2**) comprised material from three distinct locations, excavations on Gateholm Island and Watery Bay Rath with additional material from surface collection across open land immediately north of the fort. The artefacts from the field surface supplement an existing body of material, recorded as from Watery Bay and now held in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff. This material contains a number of diagnostic pieces that are clearly of Mesolithic date, including microliths and microburins.

- 5.4.2 Raw material from all parts of the project comprised nodules of good quality flint, most of which was characterised by heavily battered cortex, indicating that it was undoubtedly Irish Sea flint collected from the beach.

Gateholm Island

- 5.4.3 Five pieces of worked flint were recovered from Trench 3. This included three pieces, a blade, blade-like flake and a rejuvenation tablet, that are likely to have derived from a prepared core blade industry.

Watery Bay

- 5.4.4 All three of the trenches within the fort produced worked flints, of which the largest group (19 pieces) was recovered from Trench 8. The assemblage contains a notable blade component (29%) and is therefore likely to pre-date the construction of the fort. The collection also includes an end scraper made on a flake.

Surface collection of area to the north of the fort

- 5.4.5 Twenty pieces of worked flint were collected from the well weathered surface of open ground immediately north of the fort. Of these the positions of seven pieces were plotted by GPS, with ten pieces collected from a gridded survey area, and three pieces unlocated. Blades are again well represented, accounting for 30% of the total. The collection also includes a backed point microlith.

- 5.4.6 The distribution of worked flint from the surface collection is relatively thin; however, there are hints in the results that suggest that meaningful conclusions may be achieved by additional gridded survey to reconstruct human activity relative to the palaeochannels identified by geophysics.

Technology

- 5.4.7 Elements of the technology recur throughout the collection. Blades are a frequent component of the assemblage from all sites and are accompanied by crested pieces (unstratified in Trench 8, and from fieldwalking), platform abrasion, as a means of core preparation, and soft hammer mode (layer **803** and fieldwalking). These combined attributes, together with the presence of microliths, all point to a Mesolithic date. However the project also recovered three relatively large flake cores (one from layer **803** and two from fieldwalking) produced by alternate flaking and hard hammer percussion that may be of a later date.

Conclusions

- 5.4.8 The relatively small worked flint assemblage from the combined components of the field work project has provided clear evidence to confirm Mesolithic activity in the area that pre-dates the construction of the fort. The current results are insufficient to refine the date of activity more precisely. Mesolithic occupation is well represented around the southern coast of Wales and is especially prevalent in Pembrokeshire, as at Nab Head, where activity dating throughout the Mesolithic period has been recovered. However field work by Cantrill (1910) on Gateholm Island produced an Early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead which may indicate that here activity persisted or was possibly transitional between the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

5.4.9 The topographic position of Gateholm and Watery Bay is very reminiscent of the Nab Head location, itself a promontory, much as Gateholm may once have been before its separation from the mainland. In addition the Watery Bay spread of worked flint is situated around the head of a series of palaeochannels which feed a small stream course that drains south to the present beach. This would have provided a source not only of fresh water to Mesolithic communities but also an access from the coastal plain.

5.5 Slag

5.5.1 Four small pieces of slag were recovered. One piece associated with Romano-British pottery in subsoil **302** is an abraded fragment of tap slag from iron smelting, while three fragments from bank layer **405** are fuel ash slag, and not necessarily related to metalworking.

5.6 Metalwork

5.6.1 The metalwork comprises four objects of iron and one of lead. From Trench 3 topsoil came two large iron objects, one possibly from a socketed (agricultural) tool, and the other comprising a flat fragment with a curved edge, of unknown function. The other two iron objects were found unstratified – one small strip and one irregular plate fragment. The lead object, found during fieldwalking to the north of the fort, is a flattish, irregular fragment of unknown function. None of these objects is datable.

5.7 Amber bead

5.7.1 An amber bead was found in the topsoil in Gateholm Trench 4. The bead has been cut to a rough disc shape, with a small, slightly off-centre perforation. It could be either of Romano-British (see Crummy 1983, nos. 559, 634) or post-Roman date (e.g. Evison 1987, text fig. 11, type A09).

5.8 Animal bone

5.8.1 The small quantity of animal bone includes a group of small, burnt fragments from Gateholm Trench 3 (post-hole **310**), similar fragments found unstratified, and a small unburnt fragment from the fort (Trench 10 topsoil). In all cases, the species are unidentifiable.

5.9 Potential and further recommendations

5.9.1 The finds assemblage recovered is very small, and restricted in its range. The quantities recovered from Gateholm Island are particularly low. Technologically datable worked flint, and pottery sherds (prehistoric and Romano-British), have provided some dating evidence, but add little to the known or suspected date range for the two monuments, although earlier (Mesolithic) activity in the area has been confirmed. The recovery of a perforated pebble hammer in the area to the north of the fort is of particular interest, although found unstratified during fieldwalking.

5.9.2 Little can be gleaned from the finds assemblage as to the nature of occupation either at the fort, or on Gateholm Island. There are few artefacts with any functional significance (pebble hammer, possible quern fragment, ironworking slag). Some indication of sources of supply is given by the Romano-British pottery (Somerset, Dorset, Oxfordshire), and by the amber bead (either traded from the Baltic, or from material washed up on eastern British coasts).

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A total of nine bulk samples were taken from Trenches 1 and 4 at Gateholm Island and from Trenches 8 and 10 at Watery Bay Rath. These samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals to provide some information on the preservation of charred material and the potential of the charred remains to provide any information on the nature of the site, local agricultural practices and crop processing processes and any specific settlement activities.

6.1.2 The bulk samples were taken from the following locations:

Trench	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
<i>Gateholm</i>			
Trench 1	4	40	Floor surface, post-holes
Trench 4	2	40	Floor surfaces
<i>Watery Bay Rath</i>			
Trench 8	1	5	Pit
Trench 10	2	11	Bank, scoop
Totals	9	96	

6.1.3 Three monoliths were taken from the trenches on Gateholm Island, to assist in the interpretation of the sedimentary processes within a number of specific features:

Trench	Monolith	Feature Type	Context
Trench 1	9	Layer over wall 104	103/106
Trench 3	10	?Turf walls	301/302
Trench 4	7	Bank around roundhouse	405/407

6.1.4 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereobinocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 3**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.1.5 The flots were generally large with high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains

6.2.1 At Gateholm, cereal remains were recovered in a large amount from a floor surface (**102**), and in small quantities from two post-holes (**111**, **113**), in

Trench 1 and in a low number from a floor surface (**408**) in Trench 4. These charred remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments and a few hulled wheat, probably spelt (*Triticum spelta*) glume bases. The small numbers of weed seeds included those of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and brassicas (Brassicaceae). These are found in arable or field margin environments. These plant assemblages are compatible with those of general settlement waste and the range of species match those found in Romano-British sites in England and Wales e.g. spelt is the predominant wheat at Caerleon (Helbaek 1964). However, they would also be compatible with an earlier, late prehistoric date, and spelt wheat could potentially continue into the 5th to 6th centuries AD.

- 6.2.2 There were also a high number of woody stem fragments in the samples from possible floor surfaces **406** and **408** in Trench 4. It has been tentatively suggested that these may be stems of heather (*Calluna/Erica* sp.). A number of tubers were observed in the sample from ?floor surface **406** and in post-hole **113**.
- 6.2.3 At Watery Bay Rath, Low levels of cereal remains were retrieved from pit **816** in Trench 8 and from bank **1012** and possible scoop **1007** in Trench 10. These remains included hulled wheat and barley grain fragments. There were also a few spikelet forks of emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), hulled wheat glume base fragments and a hulled wheat basal rachis fragment. These assemblages again would be compatible with a later prehistoric, Romano-British or even later date.
- 6.2.4 As in Trench 4, there were a number of woody stem fragments in the samples from Trench 10.

6.3 Wood Charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 3**. Wood charcoal fragments of >4 mm were retrieved in high numbers from post-hole **113**, pit **816** and ?scoop **1007**. The charcoal was mature and round wood fragments.

6.4 Potential and further recommendations

Charred plant remains

- 6.4.1 The charred plant assemblages are too small to provide any detailed information on the nature of the site, local agricultural practices and crop processing processes and any specific settlement activities. They also only provide a very broad indication of the likely date of the sampled features. The limited information obtainable from the samples, if the features were to be dated, would add a small data point to the wider environmental regional picture (Caseldine 2003), particularly as Gateholm is recorded as a key rural site in the Welsh Regional Review (<http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html>). It is proposed to write up the plant assessment results in more detail, particularly for the features within the fort, if radiocarbon dates are obtained.

Wood charcoal

- 6.4.2 There is the potential for the wood charcoal to provide limited information on the species composition and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. The richer wood charcoal assemblages do not appear to be related to any specific settlement activity. Limited further analysis is proposed for the charcoal from scoop **1007**, if a radiocarbon date is obtained for this feature, and if there are specific archaeological questions that analysis of the charcoal would address.

Sediments

- 6.4.3 There is the potential for detailed sedimentary descriptions to assist in determining the formation process within the sampled features, such as whether turfs were used within the construction of the wall observed in Trench 3 at Gateholm.

6.5 Dating

- 6.5.1 While the assemblage only produced low amounts of cereal remains, there are enough cereal grains within floor surface **102** (Trench 1) to submit for radiocarbon dating although, given the problems of the calibration curve from the late Roman to early 5th to 6th centuries, such a date would do little to add to the pottery phasing (late Roman) for this context. Furthermore, the high presence of modern roots present in this sample present the problem that such remains could be potentially intrusive into the deposit itself. Similarly, the tubers of possible heather within the floor surfaces sealed beneath bank **411** (Trench 4) could, given the number of penetrating roots, still be intrusive from more recent burning events, or could derive from older material e.g. through the burning of peat.
- 6.5.2 There is a limited possibility to date material from layer **1005**, sealed beneath the fort bank in Trench 10. The low amount of material could be reworked, but given the lower number of roots has the potential to provide a *terminus post quem* e.g. a date after which the bank was constructed, although not necessarily the date for the construction itself.
- 6.5.3 Scoop **1007** was itself sealed itself by deposit **1005**, and although the number of remains, mainly cereal glumes of probable emmer, is limited, the sample presents the greatest potential for dating. The cereal remains undoubtedly relate to settlement and occupation debris and, as such, a date from them would provide a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the bank (again not a date for the construction itself) and a date for the earlier phase of occupation in this trench.
- 6.5.4 A probable pit (**816**) has some potential for dating in both cereal remains and a small quantity of charcoal that includes roundwood stems. The grains could be reworked, but this is less likely for the charcoal. A date would provide further evidence for general, potential prehistoric, activity upon the site.
- 6.5.5 In conclusion, a date on cereal remains from scoop **1007** is proposed, and also a date on charcoal or cereal remains from pit **815**.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1.1 The evaluation aimed to assess the date, condition and extent of the surviving archaeological deposits within Watery Bay Rath and on Gateholm Island. Interpretation of the results was constrained by the small size of the evaluation trenches, and the paucity of finds, particularly those that were datable.

7.2 Mesolithic activity

7.2.1 The investigation of activity pre-dating the establishment of either of the sites did not feature amongst the original aims of the project. Nevertheless, surface artefact collection in the area to the north of Watery Bay Rath, together with further flintwork recovered from the area of the fort itself, indicates that there was activity within the Mesolithic period in the area, supporting lithic evidence found previously. This information could be used as the focus for further survey work at the site at a future date.

7.2.2 Also in the area to the north of the fort, limited archaeological evidence was encountered, with just two former field boundaries being exposed, as well as two palaeochannels that would have fed into the currently dry stream bed that runs along the eastern side of the fort.

7.3 Watery Bay Rath

7.3.1 The monument is one of a number of coastal promontory forts in Pembrokeshire – 58 of the 106 promontory forts and coastal hillforts identified in the 1993-8 archaeological survey of the Welsh coast fall within the county. Morphology is highly variable, and this may indicate varying functions, e.g. ceremonial sites, defended domestic settlements, or prestigious residences. Very few have been excavated, but recent surveys by RCAHMW of three promontory forts in Pembrokeshire have demonstrated considerable complexity and differences between the forts, and has stimulated debate on our understanding of this monument type and the contrasting modern and prehistoric attitudes to them, whether as peripheral to, or integrated within, contemporary settlement patterns (Barker and Driver 2011).

7.3.2 The current evaluation has, however, added little to the debate. No firm dating evidence for the construction of the monument, or for its development was recovered; the only finds (apart from post-medieval pottery from the topsoil in Trench 10 and the subsoil in Trench 7) comprised worked flint and possibly utilised stone.

7.3.3 The nature of the occupation of the fort is also obscure, although good preservation of archaeological features and deposits within the interior was demonstrated. Features included a stone-lined box-like structure and two possible roundhouse gullies in Trench 8, a metalled surface in Trench 7. None of these features, however, could be dated, and so their relationship to the surrounding fort, whether contemporary or otherwise, cannot be ascertained.

7.3.4 A 'scoop' sealed beneath innermost bank (Trench 10) indicated activity pre-dating the construction of the fort. The nature of this activity, however, is undated and of an unknown nature; the 'scoop', which had traces of burning

around the edge, may have been created for the construction of a roundhouse, but this is a purely tentative interpretation. Cereal remains from the scoop could provide a date for this pre-fort activity and, therefore, a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the fort. A date could also be obtained on cereal grains or charcoal from a pit in Trench 8, although the relationship of this pit to the fort defences, either contemporary or otherwise, is uncertain.

- 7.3.5 It can be suggested, on the excavated evidence, that the two banks of the fort that were archaeologically tested were constructed in different ways. The innermost bank (Trench 10) appears to have been built with a revetment, behind which the bank was built up. In contrast, the bank investigated in Trench 12 was constructed from large stones, and the adjacent ditch, outside the bank, was dug into the natural sandstone bedrock.

7.4 Gateholm Island

- 7.4.1 Gateholm Island produced inconclusive evidence as to the nature and function of the structures on the site. The lack of finds from the Island leaves the dating of the features encountered unknown, and the poor state of preservation of the archaeology make any interpretations difficult without further investigation.

- 7.4.2 Trench 1 revealed the remnants of a possible wall of one of the many cell structures located across the island, along with possible interior and exterior surfaces. Three post-holes were found within the same trench. One of these was cut through the possible wall collapse, indicating that it post-dated the abandonment of the structure. One of the other two post-holes contained a sherd of Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery, but this cannot be taken as firm dating evidence – its small size and abraded nature suggests that it could be residual. A small group of late Romano-British pottery was recovered from the possible internal surface.

- 7.4.3 Although the possible exterior surface in Trench 1 had been tentatively interpreted as forming part of the putative pathway identified in 1971, no trace of this feature was encountered in Trench 2.

- 7.4.4 Trench 3, which was positioned to investigate further cell structures, produced some very ephemeral post-holes and a single ditch, all undated.

- 7.4.5 The circular structure identified within the 1971 survey of Gateholm (Trench 4) was shown possibly to have been constructed from a turf bank. A possible surface and a post-hole were sealed beneath the bank. An amber bead, of Romano-British or post-Roman date, was recovered from the topsoil in this trench.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1.1 The evaluation has contributed some very limited information to our understanding of the two monuments, which could be augmented by the submission of a maximum of two samples for radiocarbon dating, in order to date activity within the fort. Further information could also be obtained from the charred plant remains and wood charcoal from trenches within the fort, and from the sedimentary sequence within monolith sample taken from

Trench 3, and a limited programme of further analysis is proposed for these elements.

- 8.1.2 No further analysis is proposed for the stratigraphic data, or for any of the finds categories.
- 8.1.3 It is recommended that a short report, summarising the results of the evaluation, and including the results of the further palaeoenvironmental analysis, is prepared for publication in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* or another appropriate agreed publication. A summary of work will also be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*.
- 8.1.4 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the AHBR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9 ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the project number 77508. It comprises three boxes of finds, one file of records, two A1, ten A3 and three A4 sheets of drawing film, one X-ray plate, and digital data including photographic images. In due course, the archive will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales.

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10.2 On-line resources

- A Research Framework for The Archaeology of Wales, <http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html> (accessed December 2011)

Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Material	GATEHOLM ISLAND			WATERY BAY RATH			FW	unstrat	TOTAL
	Tr 1	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 7	Tr 8	Tr 10			
Pottery	14/93	4/15	-	4/49	-	1/2	-	-	23/159
Prehistoric	-	4/15	-	-	-	-	-	-	4/15
Romano-British	14/93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14/93
Post-Medieval	-	-	-	4/49	-	1/2	-	-	5/51
Stone	11/1804	-	2/350	18/1249	31/6149	-	2/514	1/390	65/10456
Flint	-	5/12	3/30	2/6	30/346	2/2	17/563	3/66	62/1025
Slag	-	1/47	3/24	-	-	-	-	-	4/71
Metal (no. objects)	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	5
Iron	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Lead	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Amber	-	-	1/2	-	-	-	-	-	1/2
Animal Bone	-	28/7	-	-	-	1/7	-	-	29/14

Table 2: Breakdown of worked flint assemblage by type

Site	Context Number	Flake Cores	Blades	Broken Blades	Bladelets	Flakes	Broken Flakes	Crested Pieces	Rejuvenation Tablets	Microliths	Scrapers	TOTAL
Gateholm	302		1			2	1		1			5
Gateholm Total		0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	5
Watery Bay	702						1					1
Watery Bay	706			1								1
Watery Bay	802					2	1					3
Watery Bay	803	1		1	1	2	3					8
Watery Bay	805		2	4		3	8	1			1	19
Watery Bay	1002						1					1
Watery Bay	1005			1								1
Watery Bay Total		1	2	7	1	7	14	1	0	0	1	34
Fieldwalking	000					2	1					3
Fieldwalking	916					1						1
Fieldwalking	920						1					1
Fieldwalking	921		1				1					2
Fieldwalking	922					1						1
Fieldwalking	923					1						1
Fieldwalking	925			1								1
Fieldwalking	929		1									1
Fieldwalking	934					1	1					2
Fieldwalking	1501	2	3					1		1		7
Fieldwalking Total		2	5	1	0	6	4	1	0	1	0	20
Grand Total		3	8	8	1	15	19	2	1	1	1	59

Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcl > 4/2mm
GATEHOLM											
Trench 1											
Floor surface											
	102	1	30	300	80	A	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	8/8 ml
Post-holes											
109	110	3	4	50	80	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml
111	112	4	4	40	70	C	C	1 x ?wheat grain frag, 2 x ?spelt glume bases	-	-	5/3 ml
113	114	5	2	100	10	C	-	1 x barley grain frag	C	Tubers, woody stems ?heather stems	20/25 ml
Trench 4											
Floor surfaces											
	406	2	20	500	80	-	-	-	A	Tubers, woody stems ?heather stems	2/1 ml
	408	8	20	175	75	C	-	Indet. grain frag	A	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , Brassicaceae, woody stems ?heather stems	5/5 ml
WATERY BAY RATH											
Trench 8											
Pit - Group 815											
816	817	6	5	170	50	C	-	1 x barley grain frag, 1 x hulled wheat grain frag, indet. grain frags	-	-	25/25 ml
Trench 10											
Bank - Group 1012											
1012	1005	11	9	120	50	C	C	1 x wheat grain frag, 1 x ?emmer glume base	B	Woody stems ?heather stems	1/3 ml
Scoop											
1007	1008	12	2	80	30	C	B	2 x hulled wheat grain frags, 3 x emmer spikelet forks, glume base, hulled wheat basal rachis frag.	B	Woody stems ?heather stems	10/10 ml

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5

APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

All depths are below ground level. The order in which the deposits are listed represents their stratigraphic position, except where noted.

Trench 1	Dimensions: 4.00m x 1.06m max depth : 0.51		
	Land use:		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay loam. Sparse small sub-rounded shillet/sandstone; loose, diffuse horizons.	0-0.25m
102	Layer	Occupational layer/internal floor surface. Contained Romano-British pottery (14 sherds).	0.07m
103	Subsoil	Mid red-brown sandy silt. Rare charcoal flecks; rare sub-rounded shillet <50mm; rare sub-rounded sandstone <0.11m. Diffuse horizon; loose.	0.25m-0.35m
104	Wall	South-east wall of cell-like structure. Irregularly stacked, rough-hewn, angular blocks. Only one course rem.	0.10m thick
105	Layer	Layer relating to the collapse or demolition of wall 104 . Mid red-brown silty clay.	0.10m thick
106	Layer	Possible remnants of a turf bank or, more probably, a layer comprising the robbed-out remains of wall. Possibly the same as 105 . Mid grey-brown silty clay, with sparse sub-rounded shillet <30mm and common sub-angular sandstone <80mm.	0.10m thick
107	Layer	Possible road surface; or could be extension of layers 105 and 103 . Mid orange-red sandy silt loam with moderate sandstone gravel pea grit.	0.07m thick
108	Layer	Possible foundation layer for possible surface 102 . Otherwise highly degraded and loose natural. Mid grey/red-brown silty clay with very common angular sandstone <460mm.	0.17m thick
109	Cut	Cut of post-hole; 0.26m in diameter and 0.14m deep. Sub-circular, with steep concave sides and a flat base. Single fill 110.	0.14m deep
110	Fill	Secondary fill of post-hole 109 . Mid to dark red-brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular shillet inclusions. The fill contained prehistoric pottery (one sherd).	0.14m thick
111	Cut	Cut of post-hole, sub oval with U-shaped profile. 0.30m by 0.20m, depth 0.18m. Single fill 112.	0.18m deep
112	Fill	Secondary fill of post-hole 111 . Mid to dark red-brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular shillet.	0.18m thick
113	Cut	Post-hole; sub-oval with concave sides and a flat base. 0.34m by 0.32m; depth 0.09m. Single fill 114. Cut through wall 104.	0.19m deep
114	Fill	Secondary fill of 113 . Mid to dark red-brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular shillet inclusions. Diffuse horizon.	0.19m thick

Trench 2	Dimensions: 1.2m x 0.9m with a max depth of 0.32m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
201	Layer	Topsoil: loose mid grey-brown silty clay loam, with sparse sub-rounded sandstone <60mm; diffuse horizons.	0-0.18m
202	Layer	Subsoil: loose mid red-brown silty clay with moderate subrounded sandstone. Diffuse horizons.	0.18m-0.26m
203	Layer	Natural: mid-grey rab (sandstone). Rough uneven; bioturbated.	0.26m

Trench 33	Dimensions: 2.60m x 1.26m ; max depth 0.50m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
301	Layer	Topsoil: Loose mid-grey-brown silty clay loam with sparse sub-rounded sandstone. Bioturbated with a clear horizon.	0-0.30m
302	Layer	Subsoil: loose, mid-red-brown silty clay with common sub-rounded shillet. Bioturbated with a clear horizon. Contained prehistoric pottery (three sherds)	0.30-0.42
303	Layer	Natural: degraded, red-grey angular shillet/sandstone, bioturbated.	0.42m+
304	Cut	Possible post-hole; circular with gentle to moderate concave sides and U-shaped profile. 0.12m in diameter and 0.04m deep. Possibly root-hole or burrow. Single fill 305.	0.04m deep
305	Fill	Secondary fill of possible post-hole 304 . Light red-brown silty clay with rare pea grit inclusions. Rare charcoal flecks; prehistoric pottery (one sherd).	0.04m deep
306	Cut	Possible post-hole, but more probably root-hole or animal burrow. Sub-oval cut with straight-sided, moderate steep slope and uneven base. 0.20m x 0.08m; max. depth 0.05m. Single fill 307.	0.05m deep
307	Fill	Loose secondary fill of possible post-hole 306 . Light red-brown silty clay with rare pea grit inclusions. Contained occasional charcoal fragments. Diffuse fill.	0.05m thick
308	Cut	Possible post-hole or, more probably, root-hole or burrow. Sub-oval with concave sides on moderate slope; U-shaped profile. 0.14m by 0.10m; depth 0.05m. Single fill 309.	0.05m deep
309	Fill	Loose secondary fill of possible post-hole 308 . Light red-brown silty clay with rare pea grit inclusions and rare charcoal flecks. Diffuse horizon.	0.05m thick
310	Cut	Possible post-hole, root-hole or burrow. Sub-oval with concave sides on moderate slope; uneven base. 0.38m by 0.17m; depth 0.05m. Single fill 311.	0.05m deep
311	Fill	Loose secondary fill of possible post-hole 310 . Light red-brown silty clay with rare pea grit inclusions, rare charcoal inclusions and burnt bone. Diffuse horizon.	0.05m thick
312	Cut	Large undated ditch running in a NE-SW direction, or (less probably) a large pit. Not fully excavated. 1.20m by 1.10m; depth 0.74m+. Appeared linear with	0.74m+ deep

		straight sides and a moderate slope. Single excavated fill 313. Truncated by possible posthole 310.	
313	Fill	Loose, deliberate backfill of ditch 312 . Dark red-brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded shillet <80mm and very abundant angular sandstone <300mm. It contained possibly struck quartz.	0.74m thick

Trench 4	Dimensions: 6.7m x 1.8m; maximum depth 0.45m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
401	Top soil	Topsoil: dark brown-red silt.	0-0.10m
402	Sub soil	Mid brown-red silt; subsoil above 403 .	0.10m-0.23m
403	Layer	Mid brown-red grit silt; capping layer for top of bank/turf wall. Truncated by animal burrows. Sits on top of possible turf wall layer 407 . In hindsight it was possibly still part of the subsoil.	0.06m thick
404	Layer	Mid brown-red silt at east end of trench. Possibly an external floor layer outside the bank or possibly a build-up layer against bank 404 , although the relationship is hard to see due to the thin layers. Very diffuse and unclear with the surrounding fills.	0.10m thick
405	Layer	Mid brown-red gritty silt. Deliberate backfill layer, part of the bank. Lies beneath layer 407 to which it is almost identical (but not quite as fine-textured).	0.16m thick
406	Layer	Mid red-brown silt clay; possibly internal floor layer for sub-circular bank structure.	0.17m thick
407	Layer	Mid red-brown silt; slightly paler and finer texture than 405 . Overlying layer 405 . The finer texture suggests it is possibly the remnants of a turf-built bank.	0.13m thick
408	Layer	Mid red-brown gritty/gravel silt out of base of trench. Not natural although is as deep as was excavated. Interpretation unclear; possibly a floor layer or surface layer that pre-dated the bank. Only evident on east side of group of flat pebbles that form packing (409) in post-hole.	0.15m thick
409	Layer	Post-hole packing. Six flat pebbles (three on edge) forming post-hole packing for post set in 408 . No cut is visible although for stratigraphic purposes given number 410 . Deliberate backfill around post. 0.20m diameter.	0.12m thick
410	Cut	Cut of post-hole. Cut is not visible and number only given for stratigraphic purposes. 0.20m diameter.	0.12m depth
411	Group	Group number for bank - including layers 403 , 407 , 405 . The bank is 1.70m wide, recorded for length of 1.80m within the trench.	0.30m thick

Trench 7	Dimensions: 6.00m x 2.00m ; max depth 0.53m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
701	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-brown silty clay. Very bioturbated and dry with sandstone inclusions <60mm, poorly sorted, sub-angular, rare.	0-0.09m
702	Layer	Subsoil: mid grey-brown silty clay with sandstone inclusions <120mm, poorly sorted, rare, sub-angular – sub-rounded. Contained post-medieval pottery (four sherds).	0.09-0.20m
703	Layer	Subsoil: mid grey-brown silty clay with sandstone inclusions <120mm; sub-angular – sub-rounded; poorly sorted, common. Very similar to 702 apart from the large amount of stones within fill.	0.26m-0.37m
704	Layer	Mid brown silty clay fill, into which is set metalled surface 705 . Possible bedding layer. Contained sandstone inclusions <120 mm; sub-angular – angular; poorly sorted; rare. Also contained rare flint and charcoal/manganese flecks	0.37-0.50m
705	Layer	Metalled surface layer within west side of trench; stones laid into 704 . Stones very tightly packed. Some elements of manganese and burning though quite rare. Sandstone inclusions <150; poorly sorted; sub-rounded – angular, abundant. Mid grey-brown silty clay.	0.37m-0.50m
706	Layer	Natural: light yellow-brown sandy clay with sandstone inclusions < 100mm; angular; poorly sorted; rare.	0.5m+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 6.10m x 2.0m max depth : 0.48m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
801	Layer	Topsoil: Mid brown grey silty clay with sandstone inclusions.<70mm sub angular-angular, poorly sorted; very rare. Soil dry and friable.	0-0.13m
802	Layer	Subsoil: mid-light grey-brown silty clay with sandstone inclusions <100mm; sub angular; poorly sorted; rare. Soil very dry and friable.	0.13m-0.36m
803	Layer	Light brown-grey silty clay with sandstone inclusions <150mm; common; angular with occasional rounded pebbles.	0.36m – 0.48m
804	Structure	Square structure; possible trough or box. Flat stone paving with single slab on its side forming wall. Stone paving 0.75m x 0.56m, depth 0.03m. Stone slab 0.95m x 0.13m; height 0.37m.	0.13m high
805		VOID	
806	Cut	Cut of irregular feature; 1.57m x 1.38m, depth 0.12m. Irregular shape with irregular shallow sides and a concave base. Possible drip gully but insufficient exposed for confident interpretation. Single fill 807.	0.10m deep
807	Layer	Deliberate backfill of cut 806 . Mid grey-brown sandy silt, with stone inclusions <200m; angular; poorly sorted; abundant, and rare rounded pebbles.	0.10m thick
808		VOID	

809		VOID	
810		VOID	
811	Fill	Deliberate backfill of possible pit 812 . Mid grey-brown sandy silt with very frequent stone inclusions <250mm, angular to sub-angular; poorly sorted; abundant.	0.29m thick
812	Cut	Cut of possible pit or ring ditch; single fill 811. Feature of unknown shape with concave sides at a 45 degree angle and flat bottom.	0.30m deep
813	Layer	Natural: mid yellow-orange sandy silty clay with moderate, sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.48m+
814	Group no.	Group number for fills 811 and 817 , deliberate backfill of possible pit (Group number 815).	0.22m thick
815	Group no.	Group number for cut of possible pit within in eastern end of trench, consisting of cuts 812 and 816 .	0.22m deep
816	Cut	Cut of possible pit or curvilinear feature. Not fully exposed within the trench, so shape in plan is unknown. Flat base with slightly concave, steep sides. 2.50m by 1.20m (exposed); depth 0.22m. Part of group 815.	0.22m deep
817	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with angular – sub-angular, moderate stones <100mm. Also includes occasional charcoal flecking. Deliberate backfill of feature 816 . Part of group 814 .	0.22m thick
818	Cut	Cut for stone box structure 804, to allow insertion of upright slabs. Rectangular in shape with flat base and straight steep sides. 1.10m by 0.90m; depth 0.18m.	0.18m deep
819	Fill	Deliberate backfill, packing layer for stone uprights of structure 804 . Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small, sub-angular stone inclusions. Width 0.32m and depth 0.18m.	0.18m thick
820	Fill	Secondary fill. Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small, sub-angular stone. Secondary fill caused by removal of stone for feature 804 and its gradual silting up.	0.18m thick

Trench 9	Dimensions: m x 1.6m max depth : 0.34m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
901	Layer	Topsoil: dark black-brown silty clay with sub-angular stone inclusions <120mm; poorly sorted; occasional.	0-0.20
902	Layer	Natural: light yellow-brown silty clay with dark orange-brown manganese veins running through it. Contained occasional sub rounded – sub angular stones <90mm.	0.20m+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 5.75m x 1.3m max depth :1.1m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1001	Layer	Topsoil: mid brown-grey silty clay with sub-angular - angular stone inclusions <70mm; poorly sorted. Soil very friable, dry and bioturbated through rooting.	0-0.25m

1002	Deposit	Part of defensive bank; a compact layer of medium – large angular stones (100-500mm) in a silty loam. The layer is 90% stone and 10% soil. Fill located on eastern side of bank.	0.16-0.73m
1003	Deposit	Large stones 500-800mm; angular blocks on outer face (west side) of bank 1002 . Do not seem to be <i>in situ</i> and have been pushed westwards through time. They form a 'revetment' or retaining element for the rest of the bank.	0.16-0.73m
1004	Deposit	Modern path material overlying topsoil. It has caused significant erosion of bank material 1002 and consequentially impacted on the stratigraphy at the west end of the trench.	0.18-0.78m
1005	Deposit	Dark greyish-brown silty clay; occasional stones. Only present on east side of bank. Lies directly underneath bank 1002 . Originally thought to be a buried soil, but now seems more likely to have been a secondary fill through gradual silting.	0.58-0.85m
1006	Deposit	Mid greyish-brown silty loam with angular stones <500mm; most probably deliberate backfill of scoop 1007 .	0.86-1.10m
1007	Cut	Cut of feature, not fully visible in plan. Edge only visible on NW side and from what is visible appeared irregular and almost vertical. In section the feature measured 1.6m wide and 0.36m deep. Not fully excavated. Possibly a scoop for a round-house (earlier round-houses within this area were often constructed in scoops). Contained fills 1006 and 1008.	0.86-1.10m
1008	Deposit	Primary fill of 1007 : dark greyish-brown silty loam with occasional small rounded pebbles and some occasional angular shale <50mm. Fill contained high quantity of charcoal (identified as oak by F. Pryor).	0.86-1.10m
1009	Deposit	Secondary fill of bank. Compact layer of moderate, angular stones (<500mm) in mid-light greyish-brown silty loam matrix. The fill appears to represent tumble from bank during post-construction phase. Width 1.75m and thickness 0.43m.	0.22-0.66m
1010	Layer	Natural.	1.10m+
1011	Deposit	Redeposited natural layer: light yellow silty clay. Seems to represent area of trampling, possibly during construction. Width 1.00m, thickness 0.26m.	0.58-0.84m
1012	Group no.	Overall group number for bank; 5.75m+ x 1.3m (excavated) and 0.86m in depth.	0-0.86m
1013	Cut	Cut of possible revetment within bank. Seems to have been cut within redeposited natural layer 1011. Larger stones of 1003 formed revetment which was jointly built up with bank 1002. 0.45m wide by 0.20m thick.	0.56m-0.76m

Trench 11	Dimensions: 9.78m x 1.6m max depth : 0.38m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1101	Layer	Topsoil: dark grey-brown silty clay. Contained moderate, sub-angular sandstone inclusions (<70mm), poorly sorted.	0-0.20m

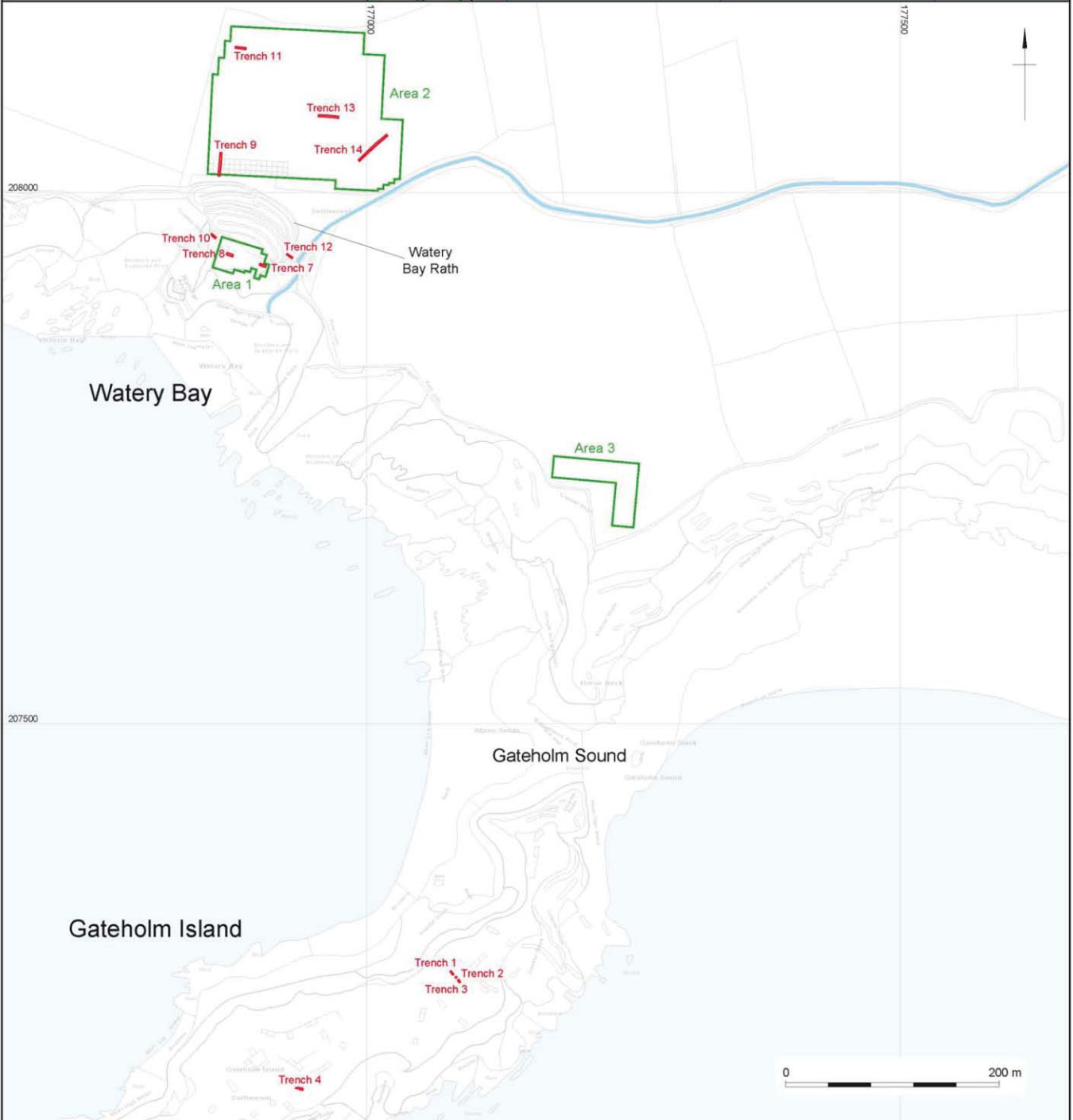
1102	Layer	Natural: mid yellow-brown sandy clay with manganese dark brown patches. Contained occasional sandstone inclusions <40mm; sub- angular - sub rounded, moderately well sorted. Very hard and compact.	0.20m+
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Trench 12	Dimensions: 6m x 1m max depth : 0.15		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1201	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-brown silty sandy clay. No inclusions. Heavily bioturbated.	0-0.15m
1202	Fill	Bank, aligned N-S. Angular stones (<100mm) deposited on natural outcrop of bedrock, on the west, inside of the bank. Fill unexcavated.	0.15m+
1203	Natural	Natural: mid orange-brown sandy clay. Bedrock abundant sandstone (<100mm); angular – sub-angular; well sorted.	0.15m+

Trench 13	Dimensions: 19m x 1.6m max depth : 0.22m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1301	Layer	Topsoil: mid grey-black silty clay with moderate sandstone inclusions (<60mm), poorly sorted, sub-angular - sub rounded.	0-0.25m
1302	Layer	Natural: mid yellow-grey sandy clay with moderate sandstone inclusions (<70mm), moderately well sorted, sub-angular – sub-rounded.	0.25m+
1303	Cut	Cut of palaeochannel running N-S. 2.2m wide. Contained single fill 1304.	0.22m-0.73m
1304	Fill	Mixed deposit, fill of palaeochannel. Mid yellow-brown silty sandy clay with stone and gravel inclusions. Common stone/gravel (<80mm), poorly sorted, sub-rounded – sub-angular.	0.22m-0.73m

Trench 14	Dimensions: 35.80m x 1.6m max depth : 0.4m		
	Land use: pasture		
	Coordinates:		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1401	Layer	Ploughsoil: mid grey-black, silty clay. Rare sandstone inclusions (<60mm), poorly sorted, sub-angular.	0-0.32m
1402	Layer	Natural: yellow and yellow-orange sandy clay with sandstone inclusions (70mm), poorly sorted (concentrations in patches-80% density), main areas 10% density.	0.32m+
1403	Cut/Fill	One number given for unexcavated palaeochannel. Runs NW-SE; 2.8m wide. Mid grey and reddish-grey silty sand, 'clean'. Sandstone fragments, sub-angular, abundant, <70mm.	0.32m+
1404	Cut/Fill	One number given for unexcavated palaeochannel. Runs NW-SE; 4.40m wide. Mid grey and reddish silty	0.32m+

		sand, 'clean'. Sandstone fragments, sub-angular, abundant, <70mm.	
1405	Cut/Fill	Modern field boundary, not excavated. Runs NW-SE; 2.40m wide. Fill dark grey-black silty clay, same as ploughsoil. It contained angular sandstone, <120mm, with a moderate density.	0.32m+
1406	Cut/Fill	Modern field boundary not excavated. Runs NW-SE; 2.20m wide. Fill dark grey-black silty clay, same as ploughsoil. It contained angular sandstone (<120mm), with a moderate density.	0.32m+



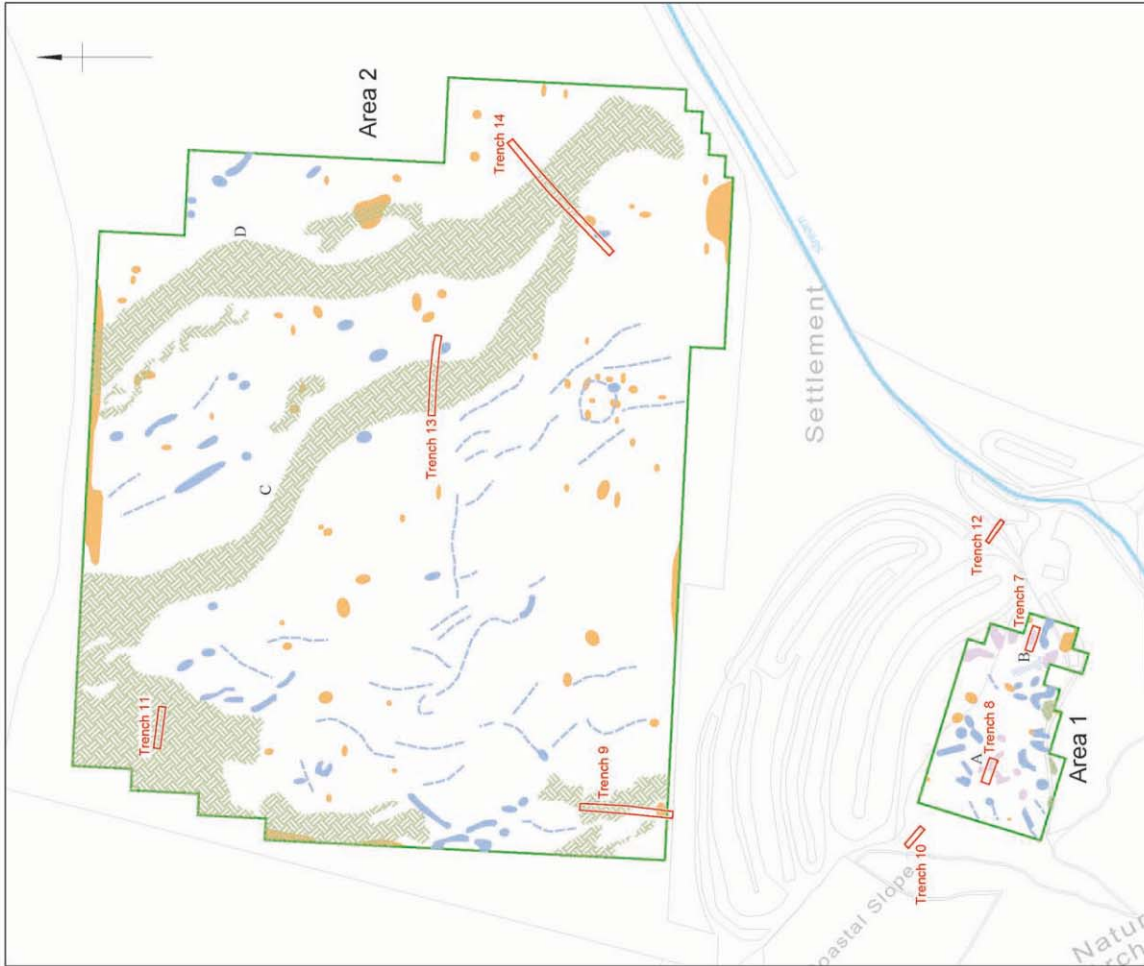
	Evaluation trench	<small>Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map supplied by Time Team with the permission of the controller of HMSO © Crown Copyright (AL 100018665). Contains Ordnance Survey open data © Crown Copyright and database right 2011. Additional digital UK map data © 2005 XYZ Digital Map Company. Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospections Ltd. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small>	
	Gradimeter survey area	Date: 27/02/12	Revision Number: 0
	Fieldwalked area	Scale: 1:20,000 & 1:4000	Illustrator: KL
	Stream	Path: Y:\PROJECTS\77508TT\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval11_10\77508_f1.dwg	

Site and trench location and fieldwalked area

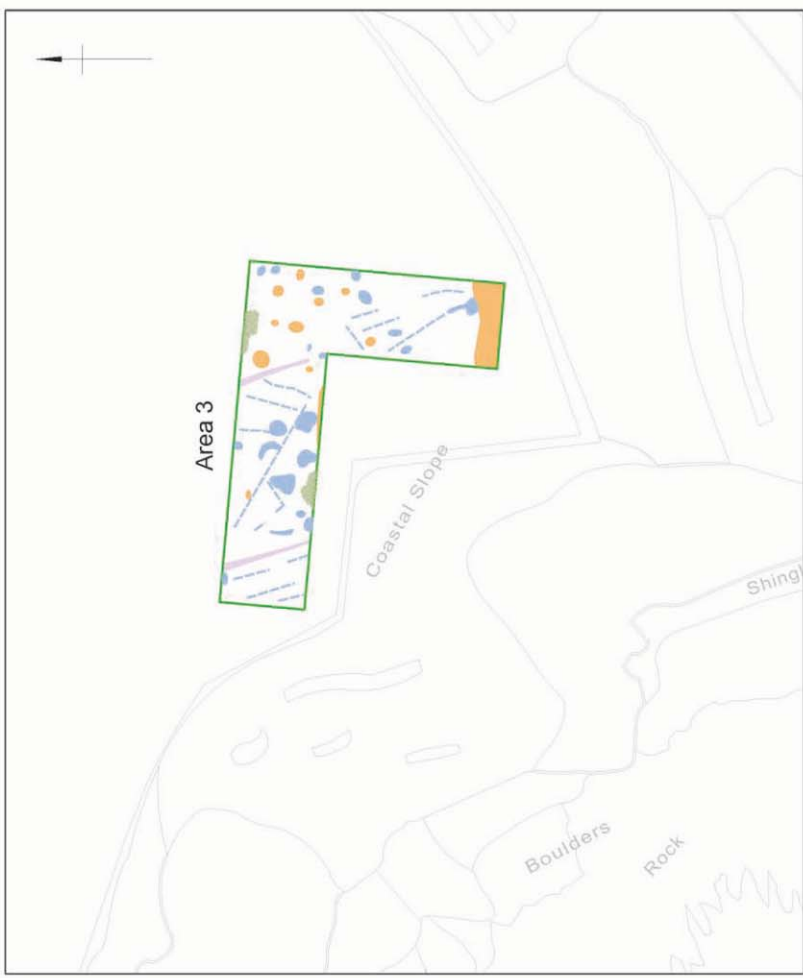
Figure 1



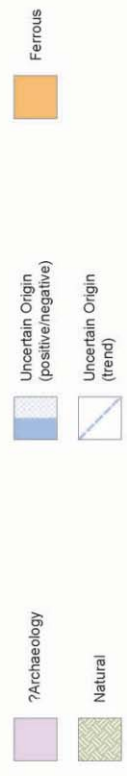
Plate 1: Panoramic view of Watery Bay Rath and Gateholm Island, view from north



Areas 1 and 2



Area 3



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Evaluation trench
 Gradimeter survey area

Date:	27/02/12	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:1250	Illustrator:	KL
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\7508\T\Drawing Office\Report Figs\val11_10\7508_13.dwg		



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	— Evaluation trench	Date: 27/02/12	Revision No.: 0	Scale: 1:1500

1971 survey plan of Gateholm Island Figure 4

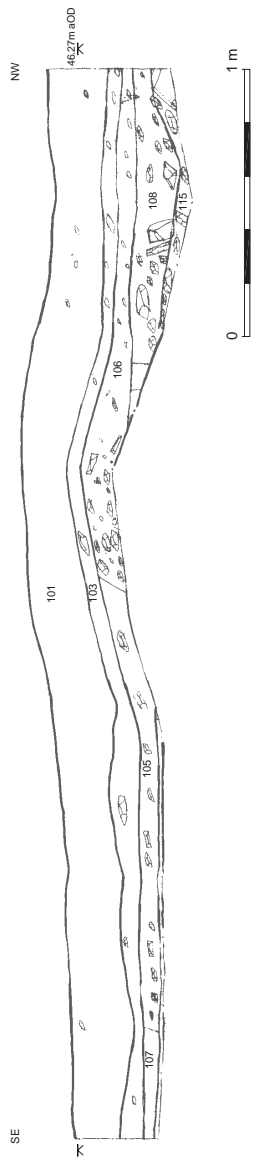
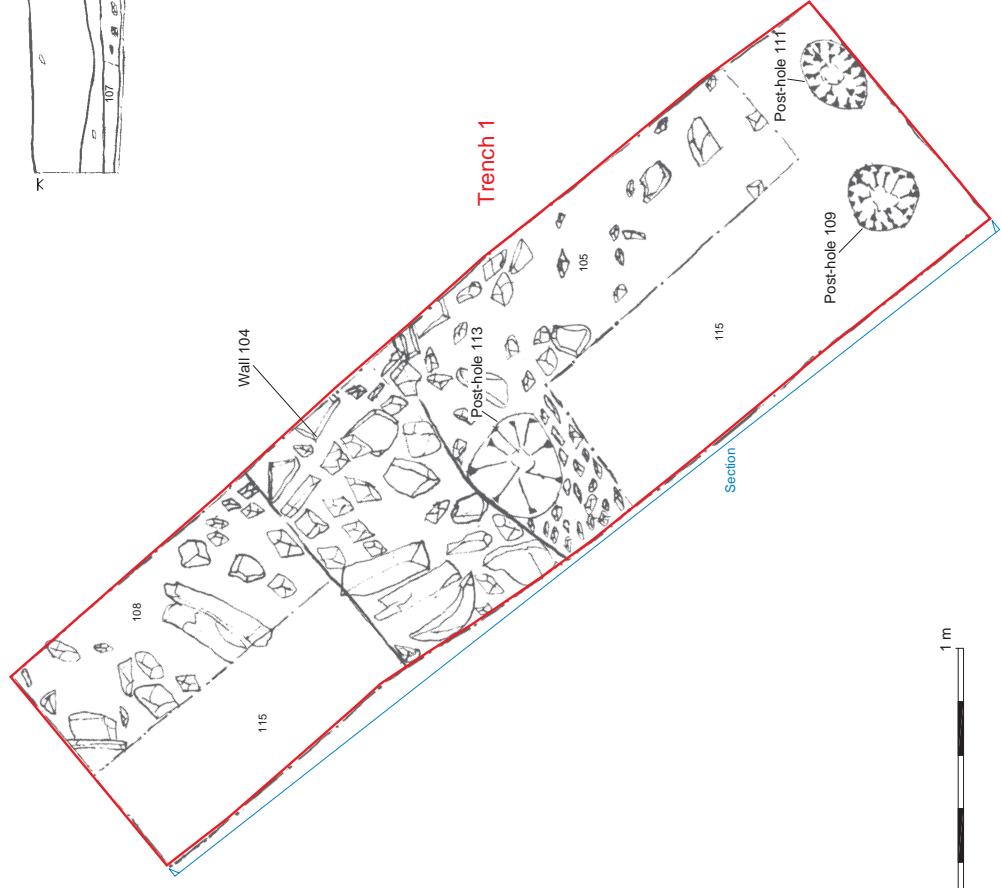
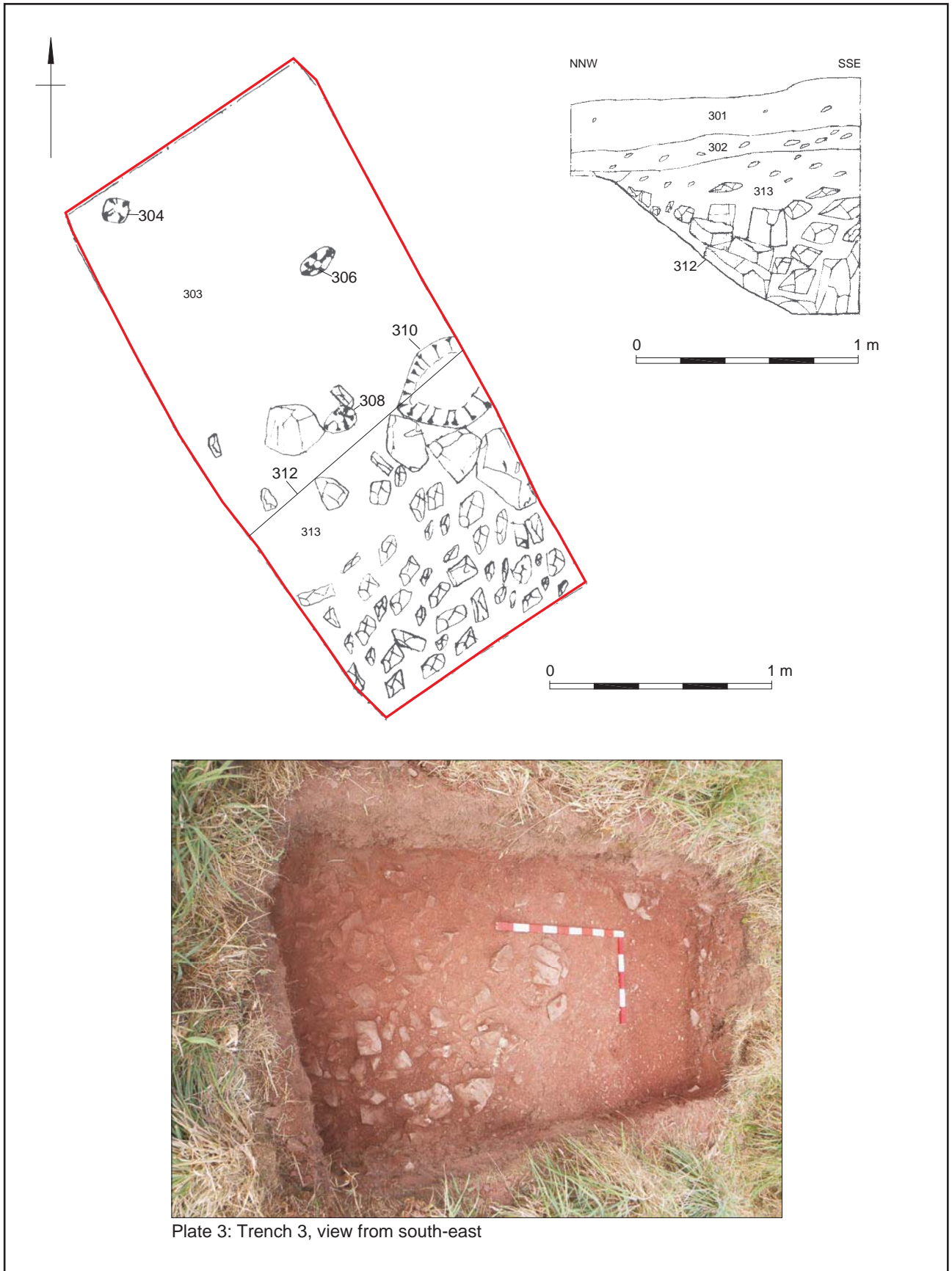




Plate 2: Trench 1, view from north-west

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	Date: 27/02/12	Revision Number: 0	Scale: Plan & Section 1:20	Illustrator: KL
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Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

Figure 5



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	Scale:	Plan & Section 1:25	Illustrator:	KL
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Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

Figure 6

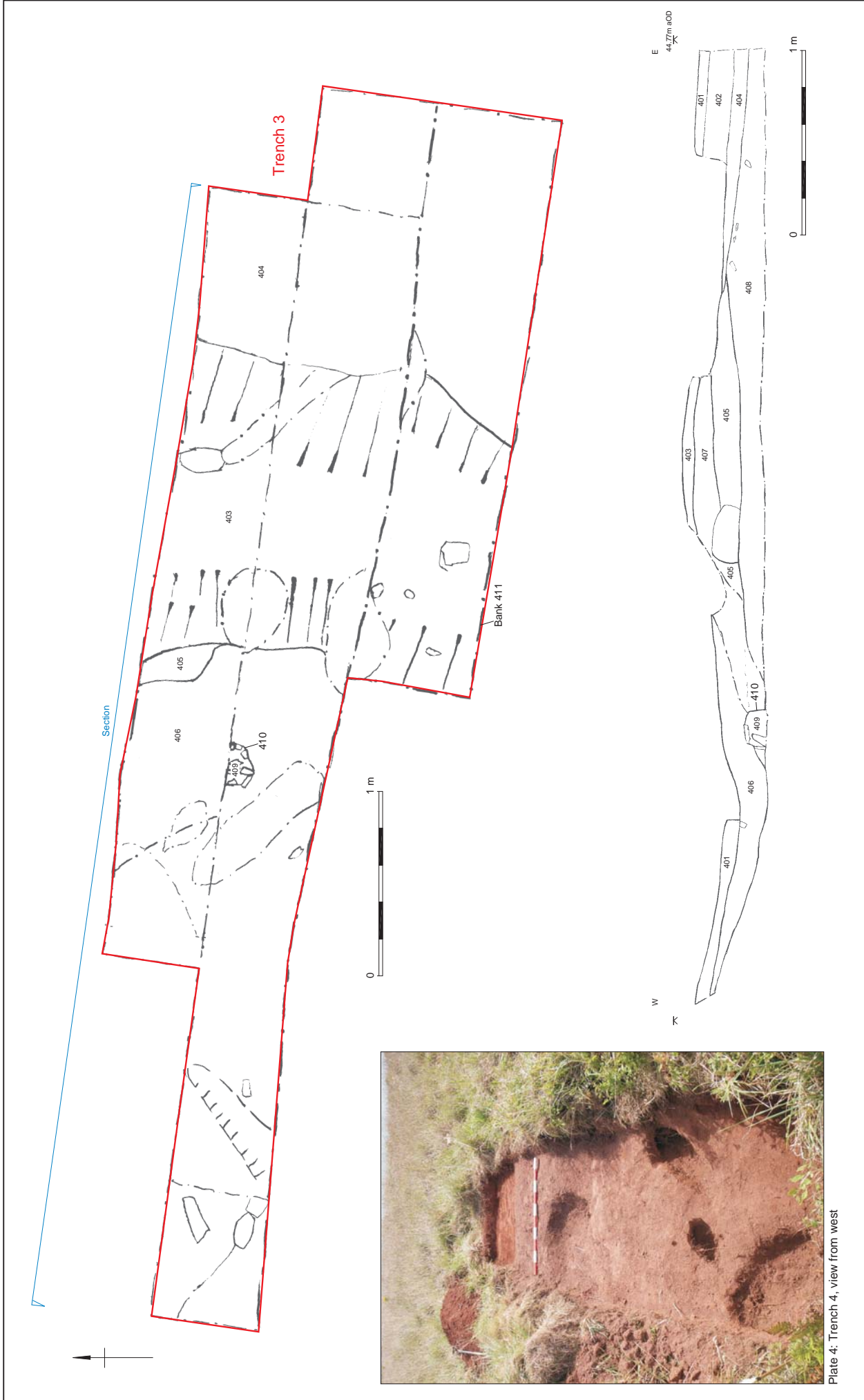


Plate 4: Trench 4, view from west

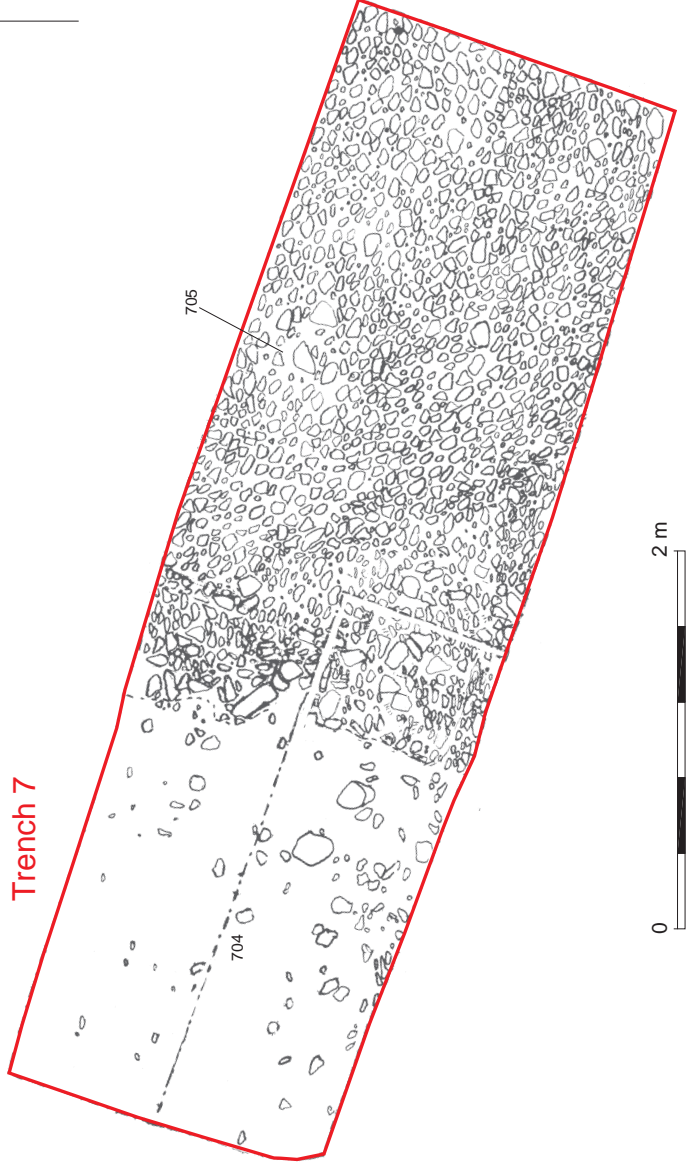
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	Scale: Plan & Section 1:20	Illustrator: KL	
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Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

Figure 7



Plate 5: Trench 7, view from south-east



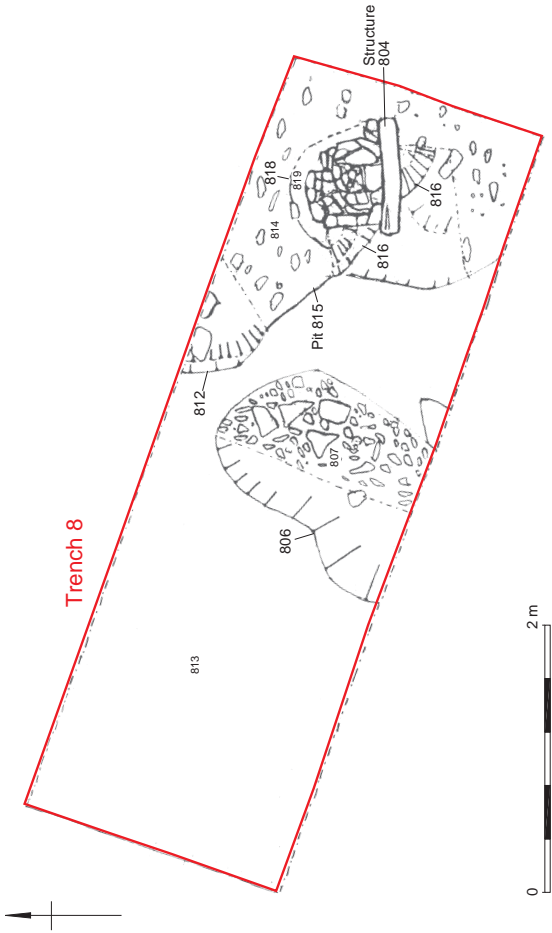




Plate 6: Trench 8, view from north-west



Plate 7: Structure 804, view from north-west



Plate 8: Gully 806, view from north-west

	 Evaluation trench		Date: 27/02/12	Revision Number: 0
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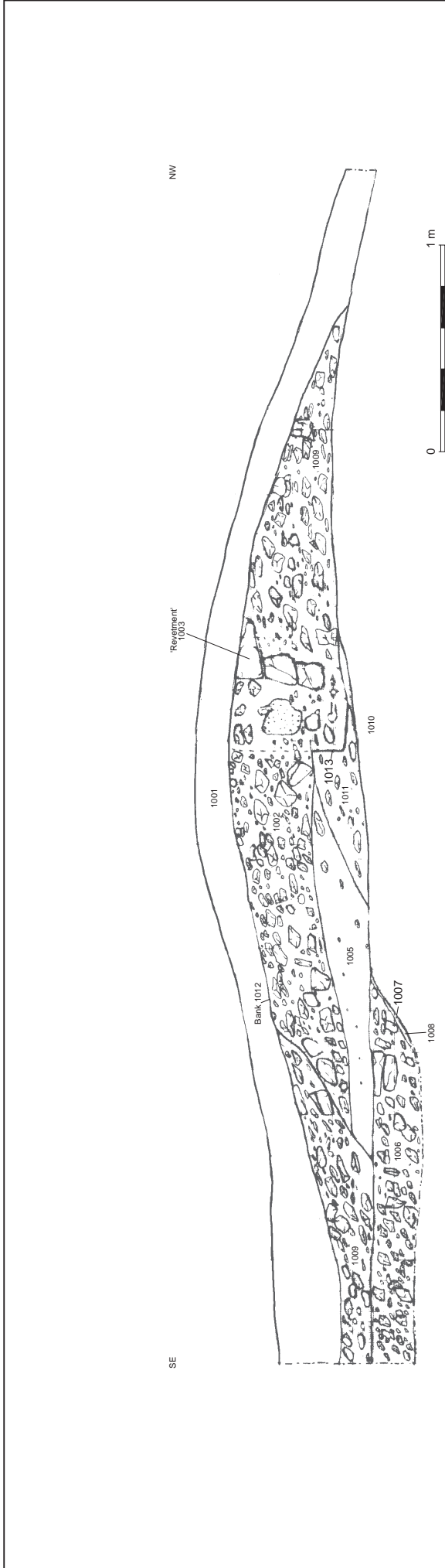


Plate 9: Trench 10, view from north-west

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	Date: 27/02/12		Plan & Section 1:20		
	Scale:		Path: Y:\PROJECTS\7508\Drawing Office\Report Figs\eval11_10\7508_15.dwg		

NW

SE

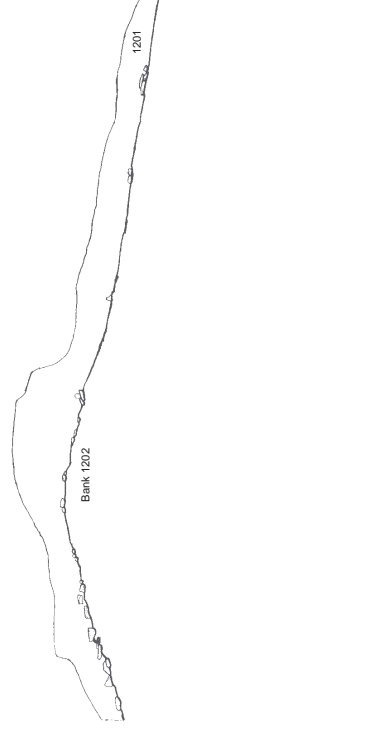
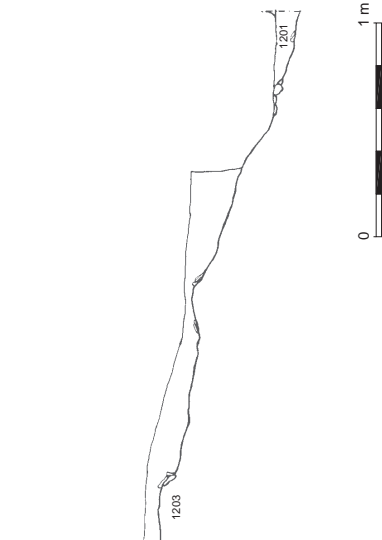


Plate 10: Trench 12, view from north-west

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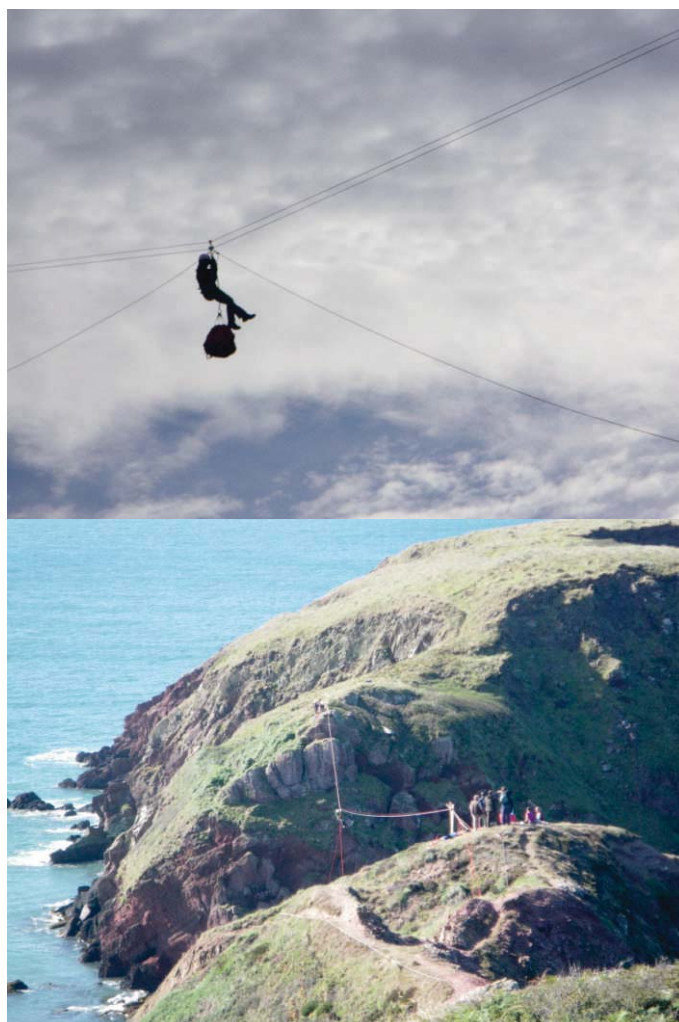
Plate 12: Trench 11, view from west



Plate 12: Trench 13, view from south-west, showing palaeochannel 1303



Plate 13: Trench 14, view from north-west



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