Wessex Archaeology

Roughtor, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Roughtor, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall

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Summary

In October 2006 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at a site on the western slope of the Roughtor, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall (NGR 214081 81735) to investigate the remains of a Bronze Age roundhouse settlement and a structure known as the Bank Cairn, a possible Neolithic ritual monument.

The roundhouse settlement had been previously investigated in the 1950s with a number of trenches placed across the structures. The current programme of works aimed to revisit the roundhouses previously excavated, and also to investigate an undisturbed structure. The settlement had initially been dated as Bronze Age by comparison to other excavated sites on Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor, and the main aim of the current project was to confirm (or otherwise) the date of the structures.

The Bank Cairn had initially been linked with a number of stone landscape divisions but, following the extensive Bodmin Moor Survey of the early 1990s, its significance as a separate monument was identified.

The evaluation provided a definitive date for the use of the buildings by the recovery of Middle Bronze Age pottery from occupation levels within the houses. This occupation was seen as possibly seasonal, with the structures only being used during the months when the higher slopes of the tors could be used for animal grazing.

The Bank Cairn was seen to comprise an extensive structure formed from two parallel dry-stone walls bounding a central area filled with rubble, further rubble being placed on the outer side of the dry-stone walls to create a linear stone mound. The structure had been noted as being aligned upon a number of tors within the landscape and had potentially been constructed over several phases. The Bank Cairn was therefore interpreted as a probable cursus monument or bank barrow, a ritual processional way dating to the Neolithic. Other known cursus monuments were more frequently constructed as earthen banks; the Roughtor monument was built using the material easiest to hand - granite boulders and rubble.

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The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Claire Stephens and Emma Wood of GSB Prospection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham and landscape survey was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Francis Pryor. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Steve Thompson and Naomi Hall, both of Wessex Archaeology. Naomi Hall was also responsible for on-site finds processing. On-site finds identification was undertaken by Carl Thorpe and Helen Geake.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Raksha Dave, Kerry Ely, Brigid Gallagher, Ian Powlesland and Matt Williams assisted by Tracey Smith, Pete Dudley, Neil Craze, Megan Val Baker, Katie Watkins, Charlie Johns and Sean Taylor.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Steve Thompson with specialist reports prepared by Lorraine Mepham (finds), Chris Stevens (environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Will Foster. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

The work benefited from discussion on site with Henry Chapman, Ben Geary and Emma Tetlow (Birmingham University), Peter Herring (Cornwall Heritage Environmental Service), Ian Morrison (English Heritage) Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology) and Helen Geake (Cambridge University).

Finally thanks are extended to Mrs Nancy Hall, English Heritage, English Nature and the Commoners Association for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.

Roughtor, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Roughtor, Bodmin Moor, Cornwall (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

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

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located in the north-western part of Bodmin Moor, approximately four miles south-east of Camelford and approximately 15 miles north-west of Liskeard, and is centred on NGR 214081 81735.

1.2.2 The site lies on the western slope of Roughtor, west of Brown Willy, at a height of approximately 288m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology consists of microgranite, granite and slate, and the area also includes a worked out deposit of china clay (British Geological Survey 1994, sheets 335 and 336).

1.2.3 The site at Roughtor is under private ownership and is in use by the Commoners' Association for animal grazing. The area is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and thus under the protection and management of English Nature. The nature of the archaeological remains are considered of national importance and thus they have been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Nos. 15548 and 15584).

1.3 Historical and Environmental Background

Introduction

1.3.1 Bodmin Moor is the largest granite upland area in Cornwall, near to the eastern edge of the county, and comprises 13 parishes covering an area of 200sq km. It was known as Fowey Moor until the 19th century. Bodmin Moor has seen human activity from the Mesolithic through to the post-medieval period with areas of settlement and concentrations of industrial workings located across the Moor. Tilley (1996, 162) described it as *'one of the best preserved upland 'fossil' prehistoric landscapes of southern Britain'*.

Mesolithic (8500-4000BC)

1.3.2 The population of Bodmin Moor during the Mesolithic period would have encountered a landscape consisting of open heather moor and upland grass, with peat bogs in the valley bottom (Videotext Communications, 2006, 5; Herring and Rose 2001, 10). This typical view of the environmental conditions during the early period of human activity on the Moor may not be true for all areas, as recent work has shown that mixed woodland may have extended up to and even over the exposed Tor summits on the Moor (Geary and Chapman pers. comm.).

1.3.3 Archaeological sites dating to this period are rare due to the temporary and transient nature of the inhabitation of Bodmin Moor, although scatters of flint are known from around the shores of Dozmary Pool (south-south-east of Roughtor) indicating hunting activity and areas of knapping. Such scatters are also known from Cornwall; detailed studies have undertaken at Butterstor and on the Lizard peninsula, which indicate that these scatters represent seasonal base camps and temporary shelters. Herring and Rose (2001, 11) conclude that *'thousands of such sites must exist on Bodmin, though few as yet have been located'*.

Neolithic (4000-2500 BC)

1.3.4 The mixed woodland of Bodmin Moor began to be cleared with the arrival of farming in Britain and hilltop enclosures appeared as a new monument type at this time. Sites such as Carn Brea, Helman Tor and Roughtor were possibly the sites of major tribal centres, indicating an organised society, a society which commemorated the dead by the construction of chambered tombs and burial monuments. At Roughtor the summit is enclosed by four lines of stone ramparts enclosing a series of platforms presumably designed to support buildings. (Herring and Rose 2001, 12; Geary and Chapman pers. comm.). At Stannon, St Breward, Neolithic activity was identified from the recovery of two greenstone axes and Grooved Ware pottery (Mercer 1970), with further Neolithic flint work recovered during the later excavations (Jones 2006, 346).

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (3000-1500 BC)

1.3.5 The tree clearance of the early Neolithic is evident from the regeneration of woodland towards the end of the Neolithic period, before a pronounced episode of clearance during the Bronze Age (Geary and Chapman pers. comm.). At this time the increased influence of human activity on the landscape of the south-west peninsula is evident from the increased construction of both domestic sites, habitation areas and landscape divisions as well as ritual or religious sites, and sites of commemoration.

1.3.6 The activity which began in the early Neolithic reached a peak on Bodmin during the Bronze Age. Approximately 200 prehistoric settlements containing some 1500 round-houses, with associated livestock enclosures, potentially belong to the Bronze Age. By 2001, however, only three sites on Bodmin had been excavated, including Garrow and Stannon, both at St Breward (Herring and Rose 2001, 28-9). These sites show evidence of continued occupation over some period of time with several distinct phases

of activity. One of the roundhouses at Stannon was constructed within a Bronze Age ring cairn and at Garrow evidence of occupation into the Iron Age was identified through the pottery recovered. The nature of the sites on Bodmin has led to the hypothesis that some were only temporary dwellings, with sites on higher ground utilised in summer when the livestock were taken to fertile new pastures, returning to the lowland areas in winter, when upland conditions became too harsh. This practice of transhumance may account for the variety of settlement types, and analysis of the domestic sites indicate that they are unlikely to be contemporaneous with the religious sites on Bodmin (Herring and Rose 2001, 29).

1.3.7 The religious or ceremonial monuments of Bodmin Moor are characteristically stone circles, stone rows, standing stones, cairns and barrows. Cairns are conspicuous by their number with over 400 known from Bodmin, and although only a few have been dated they all fall within the 2000-1600 BC date range. The cairns of Bodmin occur predominantly without kerb stones and are less than 10m in diameter.

Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age (1500BC-AD43)

1.3.8 It is assumed that most settlements on Bodmin were abandoned by 1000 BC due to the deterioration of the climate and the soils, and the use of the uplands became less intensive. It is likely that a number of the roundhouse settlements continued in occupation through into this period. Sites could have been reused with a certain degree of regeneration during the summer months as transhumance settlements, as indicated by the pottery from Garrow. It was only the strongly defended hillforts such as Bury Castle, Cardinham and Berry Castle, St. Neot (*c*. 400 BC – AD 50), and the defended farming settlements such as Allabury and Bray Down (*c*. 400 BC – AD 600) which appear to have been continuously occupied during this later prehistoric period (Herring and Rose 2001, 36).

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

1.4.1 The site on the western slope of Roughtor was first surveyed by Crawford at the beginning of the 20th century and was mapped again during the 1970s by the Ordnance Survey and later by the Royal Commission of Historic Monuments. In 1994 it was re-surveyed as part of the extensive Bodmin Moor Survey (BMS).

1.4.2 The remains and structures are recorded in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record and have been assigned specific Primary Record Numbers. These PRNs will be referred to within this document. The site at Roughtor consists of an extensive prehistoric settlement with enclosures and fields and several roundhouses or hut circles. The size of the structures varies and some may therefore be dwellings and others perhaps food stores or animal shelters. The prehistoric settlement of enclosures and roundhouses has been designated as PRN 3291.

1.4.3 The site also contains a network of six linear stone boundaries dividing the moorland into a series of large blocks, some 20-30 hectares in size suggesting a pastoral function. These linear boundaries (PRN 3299) were

interpreted as landscape divisions associated with farming and animal husbandry, and show some distinct variation which may infer they are not all contemporaneous. PRN 3299.1 is considerably larger than any other at Roughtor, measuring *c*. 400m long by between 5.5 and 7.8m wide. Although included in the field boundary system within the SMR, the results of the BMS clearly indicate that it had a different function, and it has been defined as a 'Bank Cairn'. The Bank Cairn appears to have been built in at least two phases as it was initially aligned on Showery Tor, then turning slightly to the south to align with Little Roughtor, before a final turn towards the dip between Little Roughtor and Roughtor (Herring and Kirkham forthcoming).

1.4.4 The date of these structures is uncertain and they may have seen reuse in later periods, although by comparison to the Dartmoor land divisions (reaves) a date in the 2nd millennium BC is suggested.

1.4.5 The site at Roughtor was first investigated through excavation in the 1950s by local archaeologist Dorothy Dudley who dug a number of trenches into several of the roundhouse structures. Although this work was never published, Dudley made thorough notes accompanied by scaled plans and section drawings of her investigations. No further excavations have occurred at Roughtor since that time (Videotext Communications 2006, 2-7).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled by Videotext Communications (2006) in consultation with Ian Morrison (English Heritage) and Nicholas Johnson (Cornwall County Council Historical Environment Service), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is presented here.

2.1.2 The project aimed to ascertain date, character, condition and extent of the underlying archaeology, looking particularly at the Bank Cairn (PRN 3299.1), and a number of roundhouses/hut circles belonging to the prehistoric settlement (PRN 3291).

3 METHODS

3.1 Geophysical Survey

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of gradiometer (magnetic) and magnetic susceptibility survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

3.2 Evaluation Trenches

3.2.1 As the site contained a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments investigation into those monuments occurred largely at points of previous disturbance, namely at the point of modern breaches through the Bank Cairn

and Dorothy Dudley's previous trenches. Dudley recorded that she did not reveal natural deposits within those trenches and so the potential for the recovery of further information remained. The work was carried out following the granting of Scheduled Monument Consent by English Heritage.

3.2.2 Five evaluation trenches of varying sizes were excavated, in areas where the structures had already been disturbed. In addition, English Heritage granted a further 40 square metres of trenching, to be positioned either adjacent to these disturbed areas, or to be used to investigate geophysical anomalies from the survey.

3.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or where natural geology was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.2.4 The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.2.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.2.6 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising colour transparencies, black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

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

3.2.8 A unique site code (RT 06) was agreed prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out on the 20th to 23rd September 2006. 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.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2006), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Geophysical Survey

Introduction

4.2.1 Three areas of gradiometer (magnetic) survey were undertaken and targeted upon the prehistoric settlement (Area 1), to the south of the Bank Cairn (Area 2) and the eastern most section of the Bank Cairn (Area 3). A magnetic susceptibility survey was carried out in Area 1.

4.2.2 Conditions for survey were adequate. The ground cover consisted of tussocky grass and the partially upstanding archaeological remains.

4.2.3 Small scale ferrous anomalies within the gradiometer data are likely to be either modern iron debris on the surface or relate to the mineralogy of the igneous rocks.

Results of Gradiometer (Magnetic) Survey

Area 1

4.2.4 Areas of increased magnetic response correspond to the majority of the remains of the roundhouses as shown in **Figure 2**. Response (A) in the northern section of the data had a strong response, which suggested burning. When excavated the roundhouse proved to have a burnt floor surface. Although anomalies (B) also have a similar strength of response, this structure was excavated in the 1950s and it is possible that the responses reflect back-filled trenches.

4.2.5 Anomalies (C) show a slight increase over the background level and, as they coincide with upstanding archaeological features, it seems probable that this is the origin of the responses, unless they too have been subject to excavation.

4.2.6 The extents of the earthworks enclosure can be seen as trends and the limits of enhancement in the data (D). Some of the responses visible in the results may be natural responses.

4.2.7 Ferrous response (E) was caused by a surface obstruction (excavator bucket) that could not be moved.

Area 2

4.2.8 This area was positioned over a postulated ‘pear-shaped’ enclosure identified during the BMS; however, the magnetic results show no evidence for this. A handful of pit-type anomalies have been detected but they may represent natural variations within the soil.

Area 3

4.2.9 This area was positioned over the Bank Cairn, which is visible at the surface and within the data (F). No other detectable archaeological anomalies have been noted in this survey area.

4.2.10 Faint areas of banding within this and all of the survey areas are likely to represent natural variations within the soils.

Results of Magnetic Susceptibility Survey

4.2.11 A magnetic susceptibility survey was undertaken over the earthwork enclosure and roundhouses in Area 1. The data clearly show areas of higher readings which correlate with the individual roundhouses; for example, the strongest readings correspond to anomalies (A) in the magnetic data. However, there is no obvious zonation within the enclosure as might be expected if specific areas were used solely for stock.

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

*Trench 1 (**Figures 2 & 3**)*

4.3.1 Trench 1 was targeted upon the site of a Dorothy Dudley trench dug into roundhouse/hut circle 3291.17, with an extension to the west (not previously investigated) which took in the outer wall of the structure and part of a north-south aligned granite stone wall that appears to form the eastern limit of the settlement enclosure.

4.3.2 Following the removal of topsoil and turf (101), a rubble backfill layer (102) was encountered, which overlay the *in situ* archaeology within the structure. The earliest recorded layer was (105) the degraded natural rab, the regolith derived from the decayed underlying granite, revealed within a small sondage excavated through later deposits. No construction cut for the roundhouse was observed and it appears that the outer wall of the structure, recorded as (128), lay directly upon the old ground surface, the topsoil within the structure being removed to reveal the underlying natural.

4.3.3 The entrance into the roundhouse was located on the southern side of the structure; two granite orthostats acted as the door jambs, recorded as (107) and (166) (see **Figure 3**, photo). The doorway was positioned so that it opened outside the surrounding enclosure wall (130), which may imply that the enclosure wall was later than the roundhouse, built after the roundhouse had gone out of use.

4.3.4 Within the centre of the roundhouse was layer (109), reworked degraded natural, which overlay the degraded natural (105). It appears that following the removal of topsoil within the structure the natural was rammed and used as a floor surface. No clear hearth setting was identified within the floor surface, although a small fire pit (112), perhaps single use, was identified, cut directly into floor (109), the shallow scoop filled a charcoal rich deposit (113). A magnetic susceptibility scan of the area undertaken by GSB identified that the area of (109) around (112) had been heat-affected; in other words indicating burning *in situ* and not just the dumping of burnt material from elsewhere. One pottery sherd recovered from (113) was identified as Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware.

4.3.5 No internal stone structures were observed within the roundhouse but a number of postholes and stakeholes were encountered, implying the presence of wooden structures or supports. No discernible pattern could be identified from postholes (118) and (131) or from stakehole group (165). A small scoop

(110) was also observed, cutting (109), as was partially excavated feature (124); the function of these two features is unknown.

4.3.6 Sealing the stakeholes and postholes was occupation debris layer (106/127), charcoal rich and derived from activity taking place within the roundhouse. Following the deposition of (106/127) a possible new floor surface was put in place. The surface (104/108) consisted of small granite fragments, concentrated within the doorway and just outside the building, creating a paved entrance way into the roundhouse. The stones appeared to be deliberately placed, and not just a dump of rubble. No occupation layer was identified overlaying this secondary surface.

4.3.7 Aligned roughly north-east – south-west and located just to the west of the roundhouse 3291.17 was stone alignment (130). The alignment formed part of the walled enclosure of the settlement and extended away to the south towards roundhouse 3291.08. It was built from unworked granite slabs, on average 0.5m high, and is possibly later than the roundhouse as the roundhouse entrance way opens outside the enclosure and not into it. The construction of the enclosure may have utilised the existing walls of the roundhouse within the enclosure walls.

4.3.8 Deposit (129) had accumulated naturally between the roundhouse and the stone alignment, and was sealed by rubble deposit (103). The nature of (103) is unclear - it may be rubble collapse from the walls of the roundhouse and the enclosure wall, or perhaps the remnants of a cairn. Examples of small cairns overlying roundhouses have been identified on Bodmin and Dartmoor, and have been interpreted as part of an abandonment ceremony, associated with the deliberate clearing out and demolition of structures. The erection of a cairn thus marked the 'death' of the roundhouse, as it would similarly mark the location of a burial. Those roundhouses which have decommissioning cairns overlying them also have evidence that the latest occupation debris within them has been removed in a final cleaning act (Herring pers. comm.). This appears also to be the case at Roughtor.

*Trench 2 (**Figures 2 & 4**)*

4.3.9 Trench 2 was positioned within roundhouse/hut circle 3291.03 and targeted upon a small hollow towards the western side of the structure. It was unclear if this hollow was the remains of a Dorothy Dudley trench or perhaps a fox-hole from the Second World War activity which took place on the Moor.

4.3.10 The outer walls of the roundhouse/hut circle were partially visible through the overlying topsoil and turf and the entrance could be seen opening to the south. Following the removal (201) and possible subsoil layer (202), natural silting event (203) was identified; this sealed layers of stratified deposits.

4.3.11 The earliest identifiable archaeology within Trench 2 was probably the wall of the structure which was partially exposed and recorded as (213). No clear construction trench appeared to have been dug for the wall as it lay directly upon (214), the underlying natural geology (rab).

4.3.12 Within the structure a number of features appeared to cut (214), which may have been utilised as a rammed floor surface as in (128). Two possible stakeholes (209) and (210) and a possible posthole (207) cut (214) but formed no discernible pattern. They could have held posts for internal divisions within the structure.

4.3.13 The cut features were sealed by layer (208), a potential occupation debris layer containing sherds of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware pottery, which was in turn overlain by floor surface (205). This surface consisted of a layer of flat granite stones which appeared to have been deliberately placed rather than representing randomly fallen rubble. Surface (205) was in turn sealed by a second occupation layer (204), a fairly thick deposit of charcoal rich material. Layer (204) was sealed by natural silting layer (203).

*Trench 3 (**Figures 2 & 5**)*

4.3.14 Trench 3 was positioned at the westernmost of two modern breaches through the Bank Cairn (PRN 3299.1). The trench was excavated into the west-facing, angled section of the breach and cut back to provide a vertical section, to show the construction of the monument.

4.3.15 Deposit (302) was revealed underneath topsoil (301). This material appeared to have derived from the Bank Cairn but had been redeposited and banked up against the edge of the breach, creating a slope. Modern barbed wire and bullets were recovered from (302), which corresponds with the local tradition of the area being used during the Second World War for training exercises. Deposit (302) sealed *in situ* archaeology.

4.3.16 The earliest identifiable layer was (303/304), interpreted as the original ground surface beneath the Bank Cairn. This layer overlay (305) and (306), layers of rab derived from the decayed underlying granite.

4.3.17 The monument had been constructed by the erection of two parallel dry-stone revetment walls *c.* 1.8m apart, made of unworked granite, with possible facing stones. The stones were set directly on to the original ground surface, without the removal of the turf. The two walls were recorded as (308) and (309). The internal space bounded by the walls was infilled with granite rubble (307); this would have created a substantial stone monument, *c*. 2m across and 0.5m high (see **Figure 5**, photo). This is one of the narrowest points of the Bank Cairn. It was recorded as up to 7.8 m wide in places (Herring and Kirkham forthcoming).

4.3.18 Located on the north side of (308) was rubble deposit (310) and on the south side of (309) was (311). These two deposits appeared deliberately placed and were packed against (308) and (309) to act as further revetment for the parallel walls. These would have changed the shape of the monument from a rectangular, wide, dry-stone wall to a rounded feature with a flattened top resembling an earthen bank.

*Trench 4 (**Figures 2 & 6**)*

4.3.19 Trench 4 was positioned to investigate structure PRN 3291.01. This had not been previously excavated by Dudley, and the geophysical survey identified

the area as slightly more magnetic than the rest of the site (anomaly A). The structure appeared to be a roundhouse/hut circle, although it was roughly rectangular in shape and not circular, and there was no clear entrance visible in the partially exposed stone walls. The trench was positioned along the longest axis of the monument.

4.3.20 Stratified archaeological deposits were revealed within the structure beneath topsoil (401). The earliest parts of the monument appeared to be the surrounding walls, which were partially exposed and recorded as (403) at the eastern end and (404) at the west. The earliest deposit within the centre of the structure was layer (408). The nature of this deposit is unknown and it unclear whether it represents anthropogenic activity or a natural silting episode.

4.3.21 Possibly cutting deposit (408) was feature (410) which contained stone lining (411). This was interpreted as a possible central hearth, assuming the structure was a building. The surrounding area, however, was not excessively heat affected as suggested by magnetic susceptibility survey, and the charcoal rich deposit (407) filling the feature is likely to represent a dump of material burnt elsewhere and not *in situ* burning.

4.3.22 Layer (406) overlay (407) and sealed (410), and was in turn sealed by layer (405). These deposits were possibly natural accumulations of material washing into the structure. Partially overlying (405) was the latest deposit within the structure, a thick rubble deposit (402), concentrated over the eastern wall (see **Figure 6**, photo).

4.3.23 The rubble was concentrated towards the eastern end of the structure and was partially visible through the overlying topsoil (401), forming an arc of material towards the centre of the structure. This was interpreted as a possible cairn overlying an earlier structure.

4.3.24 The nature of the structure within Trench 4 is unknown, and there was nothing to imply that it was indeed a building as no entrance way, occupation layer, flooring or definite hearth was discovered. The structure may instead have been a ring cairn overlain by a later cairn.

*Trench 5 (**Figures 2 & 7**)*

4.3.25 Trench 5 was located upslope to the south-west of Trench 1 and was excavated to reveal the nature of the underlying natural geology. Following the removal of turf and topsoil (501) and a humic subsoil (502), a hill wash deposit (503) was identified, which was derived from the rab further upslope. Beneath (503) was (504), a possible reworked regolith, which in turn overlay clean degraded granite rab (406). No archaeological deposits or features were identified.

5 FINDS

5.1.1 Finds were recovered from all four of the trenches excavated, although in very small quantities. The assemblage includes material of prehistoric,

medieval and post-medieval date, and includes securely stratified dating evidence for the occupation of two of the roundhouses investigated, although no dating evidence was recovered from the Bank Cairn.

5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and finds totals by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. All finds data are currently held on an Access database. The potential of the finds to contribute to further archaeological understanding of the site is considered.

5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Of the 34 sherds of pottery recovered, 17 are prehistoric, one medieval and 16 post-medieval.

5.2.2 Prehistoric sherds were recovered from roundhouse PRN 3291.17 (Trench 1), roundhouse PRN 3291.03 (Trench 2), and from structure PRN 3291.01 (Trench 4). All are in igneous rock-tempered fabrics. There is one rim sherd, from possible hearth (410), with twisted cord decoration below the rim, accompanied by six small, plain, body sherds. A decorated body sherd, also with twisted cord impressions, came from fire pit (112). Further plain body sherds came from ?occupation deposit (106) (two sherds), ?occupation deposit (208) (one sherd), Trench 4 topsoil (one sherd) and granite dump (402) (five sherds). The rim and decorated body sherds can be identified as Middle Bronze Age Trevisker style pottery. The 15 plain body sherds are more tentatively assigned to the same chronological period and ceramic tradition.

5.2.3 One medieval sherd, in a micaceous sandy fabric, was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 2.

5.2.4 The remaining 16 sherds are post-medieval, all in North Devon gravel-tempered ware, and all found in Trench 2. All are heavily abraded and in a friable condition; one came from the subsoil and the other 15 from the topsoil.

5.3 Stone

5.3.1 One piece of granite collected from the topsoil in Trench 1 shows no obvious signs of working. Its flattish profile could be characteristic of a quern fragment, but given the absence of cereal remains on the site this is unlikely. Three joining fragments of micaceous schist from ?floor surface (109) in roundhouse PRN 3291.17 likewise are not obviously worked. One ?mudstone pebble from the topsoil in Trench 2 had been burnt.

5.4 Flint

5.4.1 Eighteen pieces of flint were recovered from the settlement, with a further three from the Bank Cairn. With the exception of an opposed platform flake core from (402) and a small heavily burnt fragment from (101), which may

be a second core, the assemblage consists entirely of unretouched flake debitage.

5.4.2 There are few diagnostic traits. The core from (402) has some platform abrasion, as do some of the more complete flakes. Hammers appear to have been hard in every instance where there are any indicative traits. Raw materials are varied in terms of appearance and quality.

5.4.3 In terms of chronology, the pieces could date from the Late Neolithic onwards, and would not be out of place in the second millennium.

5.5 Glass

5.5.1 Two fragments of glass were recovered. A tiny body fragment from Trench 1 topsoil is too small for comment. The second piece is a flame-rounded rim in a pale greenish glass, with an applied horizontal trail below the neck, perhaps from a drinking vessel of some form. This came from Trench 2 topsoil. On the basis of form and context, the vessel seems most likely to be of late medieval date (see, for example, Charleston 1984, fig. 147, 31).

5.6 Metalwork

5.6.1 The metalwork includes objects of gold, copper alloy and iron. They comprise a gold finger ring with amethyst setting, eight spent bullets, barbed wire, one fragment of copper alloy sheeting, an iron hook, and two unidentified iron objects. All objects came from topsoil or otherwise disturbed contexts (redeposited layer (302) in Trench 3), and all are demonstrably (gold, copper alloy) or probably (iron) of modern date.

6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from probable Middle Bronze Age deposits in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. Three samples taken from Trench 1 were associated with a floor (109), an occupational layer (106) and a stakehole (114) in roundhouse/hut circle 3291.17. Two from Trench 2 were associated with roundhouse/hut circle 3291.03, including a possible occupation layer (204) and posthole (207). Two samples taken from Trench 4 were associated with an undated structure PRN 3291.01, interpreted as a possible cairn or roundhouse. The samples were all processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 Bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm 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 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 2**). Preliminary

identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

6.2.2 The flots were generally large and while there were high numbers of fine roots, wood charcoal was relatively abundant. The high numbers of roots may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements, although such disturbance may be relatively minimal as few modern seeds and/or fragments of heather were recovered and charred material was generally well preserved.

6.3 Charred Plant Remains

6.3.1 Despite the high amount of wood charcoal, and presence of some other seeds, not a single charred cereal remain was recovered from any of the samples. The samples from Trench 1 produced no remains other than wood charcoal and a single fragment of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell.

6.3.2 From Trench 2, the possible posthole 207, produced single seeds of blinks (*Montia fontana* subsp. cf. *amporitana*), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.), mouse-ear (*Cerastium* sp.), sedge (*Carex* trig.), a small grass seed and two seeds of woodrush (*Luzula* sp.). A single seed of cat's tails came from the occupation deposit (204).

6.3.3 The samples from Trench 4 both contained numerous fragments of hazelnut, as well as a single seed of dock (*Rumex* sp.) from 408 and several grass seeds of cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.) and some possible roots or tubers from Feature 410.

6.3.4 Cereal remains have been recovered from other Middle Bronze Age sites in southwest England, from Somerset (Straker 1990), Devon (Clapham 1999) and Cornwall (Straker 1991), and their absence, if such remains are contemporary with the initial use of the structures, may indeed signify that the sites are to be related to seasonal use (Herring and Rose 2001, 22) in which cereal remains were not brought or processed upon the site. It might be noted that Jones and Tinsley (cited in Dudley 2005) found evidence for cereal cultivation from a pollen core dated to 1880-1630 cal. BC in the De Lank Valley to the west. The finds of seeds of species most frequently associated with wet grassland from Trench 2, indicate that cereal remains if present should have been recoverable, and as such the remains may indicate either the burning of local vegetation perhaps for tinder.

6.3.5 Finds of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) in carbonised form can usually be related to their exploitation for food, especially in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Moffett *et al.* 1989), but also from Middle Bronze Age sites where they are often in association with cereal remains (Clapham 1999).

6.4 Charcoal

6.4.1 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 2**. Charcoal survived in some quantity in several of the samples and in most the presence of ring-porous charcoal probably signifies the presence of oak wood. The richest deposits came from the structure in Trench 4, which

included some twig wood. The richness of these samples may be reflective of the lower amounts of roots, which often fragment and breakdown wood charcoal.

6.4.2 Given that during the Middle Bronze Age the landscape of Bodmin Moor is believed to have become largely deforested, leaving an environment dominated by open grassland and limited woodland (Jones and Tinsley, cited in Dudley 2005; Geary and Chapman pers. comm.) the presence of wood charcoal and the role of the exploitation of woodland resources is of some interest.

6.5 Potential

6.5.1 The charred plant remains indicate the utilisation of hazelnuts and the burning of elements of local grassland. However, the remains have been adequately quantified and described above and there is no potential in further analysis.

6.5.2 The charcoal has the potential to reveal patterns of woodland exploitation and possibly management. Such utilisation of woodland resources has the potential to be tied to the deforestation of the landscape from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, and is therefore of some interest. Given the still tentative dates of the deposits, any further analysis would rely on either more secure dating of some of the deposits, especially those in Trench 4 or the radiocarbon dating of wood charcoal and/or hazelnut fragments.

6.5.3 There is good potential for the radiocarbon dating of twig or sapwood from secure dumps of charcoal within all the occupation deposits in structures 3291.17 and 3291.03 from Trenches 1 and 2 respectively. There is also very good potential for the dating of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and twig wood from both the charcoal dumps associated with the undated structure 3291.01 within Trench 4.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Prehistoric Settlement (PRN 3291)

7.1.1 The work within the prehistoric settlement at Roughtor involved the investigation of two previously investigated roundhouse/hut circles and a third which had undergone no earlier work. The work by Dorothy Dudley in the 1950s had not greatly impacted upon the underlying archaeology; she recorded that natural geology was not encountered and so *in situ* remains were still present.

7.1.2 The site at Roughtor is likely to have been contemporaneous with the site at Stannon to the west, which shows evidence of activity from the Neolithic through to the Iron Age. The work undertaken by Mercer at Stannon in the later 1960s was reassessed with further excavation of the structures between 1998 and 2000 by the Cornwall Archaeology Unit and structures initially believed to be roundhouses were reinterpreted as ritual cairn structures. A

number of the structures were seen to be multi-phase, such as Site 9 which revealed Neolithic deposits overlain by a Bronze Age cairn with an Iron Age building inserted later (Jones 2006).

PRNs 3291.03 & 3291.17

7.1.3 The partial excavation of the structures at Roughtor revealed limited information about the site and definitive answers are only likely to be achieved through the complete excavation of the individual structures. By comparison to Stannon it is possible that at Roughtor the structures were also multi-phase. Both Trenches 1 and 2 identified possible rammed earthen floors within the buildings, overlain by occupation debris and then replaced by later stone floors. This was clear evidence of at least two phases of activity during the occupation of the buildings.

7.1.4 The work undertaken in 1968 by Mercer at Stannon Down concluded that *'the floor of the huts would seem to have consisted of two elements - paving, and either bare earth or some organic covering such as rushes, bark or wattle'* - no evidence for the organic covering survived archaeologically due to the acidity of the local soil (Mercer, 1970 22). The use of the underlying natural rab as a floor surface has been observed within Bronze Age houses on the Isles of Scilly and on Dartmoor (Cornwall Archaeological Unit 2001, 6).

7.1.5 Possible rammed earthen floors were identified at Roughtor, in structures 3291.17 (Trench 1) and 3291.03 (Trench 2). These may have been covered with some kind of organic matting as was suggested for Stannon Down. Dark organic occupation layers were encountered overlying the floor layers in both structures; it is possible that these deposits represent a mixing of occupation debris, as identified from the charcoal, and decayed organic matter from the floor coverings.

7.1.6 It was from these organic occupation layers that the answer to one of the main objectives of the work at Roughtor came, with the recovery of sherds of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker ware pottery. The settlement at Roughtor had been tentatively dated to the Bronze Age by comparison with the site at Stannon Down and sites on Dartmoor, but this pottery now provides definite evidence of Bronze Age activity from stratified deposits within the roundhouses.

7.1.7 The occupation layers in the two roundhouses were both overlain by paved surfaces, a feature also seen at Stannon Down. At the latter site the paving was clearly concentrated in the entrance way to the structures, and occasionally extended outside, creating a pathway (Mercer 1970 22). This arrangement was mirrored in 3291.17 (Trench 1).

7.1.8 Two distinctly different types of flooring within the roundhouses suggests at least two phases of activity and perhaps a break in occupation of the buildings. This may reflect the seasonal use of the settlement for the grazing of animals. It has been assumed for some time that some of the settlements on Bodmin were involved in transhumance (Herring and Rose 2001, 22), and the settlement on Roughtor may only have been occupied for part of the year.

7.1.9 The environmental evidence indicates the site was only used seasonally; despite the high amount of wood charcoal and the presence of other seeds, no charred cereal remains were recovered from any of the samples. Cereal remains have been recovered from other Middle Bronze Age sites in south-west England, and their absence at Roughtor may indeed signify that the sites are to be related to seasonal use (Herring and Rose 2001, 22) in which cereal remains were not brought to or processed upon the site.

7.1.10 At Roughtor, as at Stannon Down, the internal features of the houses only became visible following the removal of overlying material (the floor surfaces and occupation deposits). In roundhouses PRN. 3291.17 (Trench 1) and 3291.03 (Trench 2), stakeholes and postholes cut the floor surfaces. Evidence of internal structures and possible roof supports were revealed during the larger scale excavations at Stannon Down, but at Roughtor although similar structures could have been present their form and nature is unknown. More postholes and stakeholes may have been present outside the excavated trenches, but they may not all have been contemporaneous.

7.1.11 Following the abandonment of roundhouse PRN. 3291.17 it appears there was a deliberate clearing out of the occupation layers that may once have sealed the paved flooring, prior to the placing of a decommissioning cairn over the building. The erection of stone mounds over abandoned roundhouses has been observed at a number of sites across Bodmin Moor and Dartmoor (P. Herring pers. comm.) and appears to represent the commemoration of the 'death' of the structure, as well as acting as a final sealing of the building so that it was not reused. The final clearing of the occupation debris appears intrinsically linked with later cairn construction as in PRN 3291.03, where no overlying later cairn was identified - the occupation layer sealing paved surface (205) was still intact.

PRN 3291.01: a building or a cairn?

7.1.12 The excavation of Trench 4 across PRN 3291.01 was carried out to investigate what was thought to be a previously undisturbed roundhouse. Evidence recovered, however, suggests that the structure was a multi-phased cairn structure and not a building. An earlier structure - either a building or a ring cairn - was later overlain by another possible cairn.

7.1.13 Two outer walls appeared to form the eastern and western walls of a sub-rectangular building. The majority of the house structures on Bodmin are roughly circular, although a number of sub-rectangular shaped structures, which appear to be buildings, have been identified (Johnson and Rose 1994, 53). These structures are mostly square or rectangular in plan with rounded corners, and are often attached to enclosure walls. They have been interpreted as possible store houses, animal houses or tool stores. The position of PRN 3291.01 at the north-western corner of an enclosure fits with these findings.

7.1.14 The fact that no definitive central hearth was identified does not necessarily rule out an interpretation as a building - at Stannon Down, and in the excavated roundhouses at Roughtor, no central hearths were revealed. The

stone-lined structure (411) in PRN 3291.01 may have been a hearth; the charcoal rich fill does indicate burning but not *in situ*.

7.1.15 The lack of occupation debris is also ambiguous evidence. The erection of a secondary, decommissioning cairn over the earlier structure would presumably have also involved the clearance of the final occupation debris within the building, as seen in PRN 3291.17.

7.1.16 The lack of definitive evidence of occupation may alternatively lead to an interpretation of the remains within Trench 4 as belonging to a ring cairn which has slumped slightly, giving it a distinctively sub-rectangular shape. It is similar in shape to Site 2 at Stannon where a cairn with a stone 'tail' was identified. At the latter site a '*charcoal rich deposit was placed within the enclosed space…which did not contain any cremated bone and therefore did not appear to be associated with a funeral pyre or burial'* (Jones 2006, 346). This can be compared to the charcoal rich deposit (407) identified within PRN 3291.01 - it may be, then, that this relates to ritual and not domestic activity.

7.1.17 At Stannon, Site 9 revealed an earlier ring cairn overlain by a later mound, evidence of a ritual monument being enhanced. At Roughtor it is possible that a ring cairn in Trench 4 was enhanced by the addition of a later cairn as represented by rubble deposit (402). The rubble was nearly 0.50m thick and was clearly a deliberate deposition and not just slumping from the earlier 'wall'.

7.1.18 In conclusion, the prehistoric settlement is still only partially understood. More details of form and use were extracted from two roundhouses previously investigated, while one structure initially believed to be part of the settlement may in fact be part of the ritual landscape of Bodmin Moor. Further excavation work is needed to resolve the remaining questions.

7.2 The Bank Cairn (PRN 3299)

7.2.1 The search for definitive dating evidence from the Bank Cairn proved unsuccessful, though flint recovered could date from the Late Neolithic onwards, and would not be out of place in the second millennium BC, therefore further evidence was required and dating may be inferred by comparison to other similar monuments.

7.2.2 Previous extensive survey work carried out on the Bank Cairn by Herring and Kirkham in 2000 placed it in its wider landscape context and showed its relationship to other features and monuments (Herring and Kirkham forthcoming), but the current project was the first to investigate the nature of its construction. Herring and Kirkham found that the monument was divided into five or six segments, with new additions extending and realigning the original structure. The most westerly segment, through which Trench 3 was placed, is aligned on the summit of Showery Tor and the natural geological formation which sits on top. This formation or 'cheesewring' appears to have been a focus of attention during the Early Bronze Age when a broad ring cairn was erected around the natural monument. It would have had an almost

mystical appearance, with the enormous stones balanced precariously on top of each of other, in sight of the highest summit on Bodmin.

7.2.3 The course of the Bank Cairn then turned towards the south-east, realigned on the twin cheesewrings on Little Roughtor, a summit also enhanced by the erection of a possible Early Bronze Age cairn. Further on, the Bank Cairn runs south towards the remains of a cheesewring between Little Roughtor and Roughtor, possibly quarried during the medieval period, and lying within the tentatively dated Early Neolithic enclosure on top of Roughtor.

7.2.4 The construction of the monument was seen to vary along its length and this was interpreted as the utilisation of material which was closest to hand, although it appeared to be largely constructed of material banked around a central dry stone structure.

7.2.5 Trench 3 provided a full section through the monument and characterised its construction as consisting of two parallel dry-stone walls infilled with stone rubble, with further rubble placed either side of the walls to act as further revetment. This also gave the monument a more rounded profile, with the appearance of an earthen bank. Erosion of the monument and the robbing of stone for use in later periods had diminished the structure at a number of points along its length, reducing it in height and width, although at the point of Trench 3 it is possible that the dimensions of the structure as recorded are not too dissimilar from the original construction. No definitive dating evidence was, however, recovered from the monument during the evaluation.

7.2.6 There are no comparable sites on Bodmin, and instead parallels have been sought within the more intensively investigated moorland areas of Devon. There are more than 70 ritual stone rows belonging to the Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age from Devon, compared to less than a dozen known from Cornwall. All are single rows of stones and are located in areas of ritual landscape as opposed to areas of settlement. These alignments have been interpreted as lines of sight along which people proceeded through the landscape (Herring and Rose 2001, 24). The Bank Cairn at Roughtor appears to have served a similar purpose to the stone alignments but on a much grander scale, directing people's attention to points within the landscape.

7.2.7 However, the closest comparisons to the Bank Cairn in form and possible function are cursus monuments and bank barrows. Over 150 cursuses are known within Britain, varying in size from the massive Dorset Cursus, near Blandford, nearly 10km long, to the Stonehenge Lesser Cursus at *c*. 400m long, with some less than 250m. Though the form of such monuments can differ the function appears to have been consistent, directing the movement of people through the landscape, with reference to natural monuments, the solar calendar, or earlier man-made structures or monuments (McOmish 2003).

7.2.8 Cursus monuments by their nature tend to be formed of a two parallel bank and ditches, with a central walk-way at ground level, although there are a number of cursus monuments which are architecturally different and consist of a central bank with two parallel ditches. These monuments are widely

distributed with sites such as Cleaven Dyke (Tayside, Scotland), Scorton (Yorkshire) and the Stanwell cursus (Heathrow Airport, Middlesex). (Framework Archaeology 2006, 49). The Bank Cairn is considerably narrower, however, than all other monuments of this type.

7.2.9 The Bank Barrow at Maiden Castle in Dorset, one of three such monuments in south Dorset, is, at *c*. 500m, of similar length to the Bank Cairn, and appears to have been built in three separate sections. Although marking a continuation of the long barrow tradition, burial seems to have had little or no influence in its construction, and it is instead interpreted as forming a symbolic barrier (Sharples 1991, 255-6).

7.2.10 Classification of the Bank Cairn as a monument type remains ambiguous. This structure potentially had multiple functions, which can only be surmised from this small programme of work, including that of directing the local population to points within the landscape, and enabling their access to them, or as a landscape division.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.1 The site at Roughtor, and in particular the Bank Cairn, is the subject of ongoing research, which has included sampling for radiocarbon dating. Full publication should, therefore, await the results of this and may involve other fieldwork. Interim publication of the results of this evaluation, therefore, is proposed in the form of a short article, probably between 2000 and 3000 words with three or four supporting illustrations, based on the results and discussion presented in this report, in *Cornish Archaeology*. This would comprise a brief introduction detailing the circumstances of the project and aims and objectives; a results section detailing the structural remains recorded, with finds information integrated into the text as appropriate; and a brief discussion of the results, with reference to the original aims and objectives.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices in Salisbury under the project code 62500 and site code RT 06. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro, under the accession numbers TRURI:2006.23 (Trench 3: the Bank Cairn) and 2006.24 (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5: the settlement).

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APPENDIX 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

Roundhouse/Hut circle, Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (CSHER) PRN. 3291.17

Trench 1			Type: Hand Dug	
Dimensions: 6.8m x 1.9m		**Max. depth:** 0.40 m	**Ground level:** 258.68 m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
101	*Topsoil*	Dark brown silty loam, very humic and peaty, with <1% small granite inclusions, current turf and topsoil.		0-0.08m bgl
102	*Layer*	Loose granite rubble, backfill from 1950s Dorothy Dudley excavation.		0.08-0.14m bgl
103	*Layer*	Loose granite rubble deposit revealed below (101) in Trench 1 extension, possible collapse of roundhouse structure or possible cairn material.		-
104	*Layer/ Structure*	Deposit of unworked granite stones, in between door orthostats (107) and (166), appears to form possible paved surface at roundhouse entrance way. Overlies possible occupation debris (106). Unclear if deliberate deposition of paving or rubble collapse from hut circle structure.		-
105	*Natural*	Degraded natural granite forming mid orange clay deposit (rab). Overlain by (109).		-
106	*Layer*	Dark grey-black silty loam, charcoal rich deposit. Possible occupation layer which seals features (110), (112), (118) and stakehole group (165). Sealed by rubble/paving (104) and rubble (108).		-
107	*Structure*	Two large granite orthostats which form the north western door jamb of the entrance into roundhouse, associated with (166).		-
108	*Layer*	Rubble layer concentrated within the centre of roundhouse, potentially equivalent to (104). (108) was removed within sondage to reveal (106).		-
109	*Layer*	Mid red-orange silty clay layer, reworked natural (rab) potentially utilised as rammed floor surface; overlies (105). Cut by 110), (112), (118) and stakehole group (165). Initially believed to be heat affected but following magnetic susceptibility scan it was revealed not to be.		-
110	*Cut*	Small sub-circular, shallow-sided and concave-bottomed feature 0.42m long by 0.37m wide and 0.03 deep. Shallow scoop of unknown function which cut (109) and was filled with (111).		0.03m
111	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty loam with abundant charcoal; fills (110), and potentially derived from (106).		0.03m
112	*Cut*	Cut of possible fire pit, irregular shaped with shallow concave sides and a concave base, 0.60m long by 0.30m wide and 0.06m deep which cuts (109) and is filled with (113). High magnetic susceptibility response of immediate surrounding area of (109) and (112) edges and (113) implying *in situ* burning. Fill is cut by stake-hole (122) and possibly at least three further stakeholes as identified as hollows in the feature base.		0.06m
113	*Fill*	Dark grey black silty loam fill with abundant charcoal filling ?fire pit (112).		0.06m
114	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (115). Part of Group (165).		-
115	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (114).		-
116	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (117). Part of Group (165).		-
117	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (116).		-
118	*Cut*	Cut of posthole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and a flat base, 0.20m long by 0.12m wide and 0.35m deep. Filled with (119), (120) and (121).		0.35m
119	*Structure*	Possible packing stones around the top of posthole (118); sub-rounded granite blocks.		-
120	*Fill*	Lower fill of (118); mid yellow-brown silty clay.		-
121	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty loam; upper fill of (118).		-
122	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base.		-

		Cuts (109), filled with (117). Part of Group (165).	
123	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (116).	-
124	*Cut*	Cut of linear feature, aligned roughly north-south. Feature only partially revealed. Filled with (125).	-
125	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with degraded granite fragments, very humic deposit.	-
126	*Structure*	Alignment of stones, potentially a structure of some kind, which overlies (125).	-
127	*Layer*	Dark grey-black silty loam, identical to (106); overlies feature (124). Possible occupation layer , sealed by rubble collapse (103).	-
128	*Structure*	Curving outer stone wall of roundhouse/hut circle, formed of unworked granite blocks, *c*. 0.34-0.54m long by 0.22-0.48m wide. At this point wall is north-south aligned, 1.68m long and 0.66m wide and a maximum of 0.16m high.	-
129	*Layer*	Mid yellow-brown silty clay; natural erosion and silting deposit which formed between (128) and (130).	-
130	*Structure*	East-west aligned boundary wall of enclosure, appears initially to have been part of the enclosure associated with the roundhouse settlement but may have been reused as landscape division. Constructed of unworked granite slabs.	-
131	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (132). Located to the north-east of the main stakehole Group (165).	-
132	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (131).	-
133	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (134). Part of Group (165).	-
134	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (133).	-
135	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (136). Part of Group (165).	-
136	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (135).	-
137	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (138). Part of Group (165).	-
138	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (137).	-
139	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (140). Part of Group (165).	-
140	*Fill*	Dark grey black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (139).	-
141	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (142). Part of Group (165).	-
142	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (141).	-
143	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (144). Part of Group (165).	-
144	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (143).	-
145	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (146). Part of Group (165).	-
146	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (145).	-
147	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (148). Part of Group (165).	-
148	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (147).	-
149	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (150). Part of Group (165).	-
150	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (149).	-
151	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (152). Part of Group (165).	-
152	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (151).	-
153	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (154). Part of Group (165).	-
154	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (153).	-
155	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (156). Part of Group (165).	-
156	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (155).	-

157	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (158). Part of Group (165).	-
158	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (157).	-
159	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (160). Part of Group (165).	-
160	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (159).	-
161	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. Cuts (109), filled with (162). Part of Group (165).	-
162	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (161).	-
163	*Cut*	Cut of stakehole, sub-circular in shape with steep sides and concave base. which cuts (109), filled with (164). Part of Group (165).	-
164	*Fill*	Dark grey-black silty clay with charcoal fragments; fill of (163).	-
165	*Group*	Group number for a collection of similarly shaped and sized stakeholes which cut through possible floor layer (109). It is unclear if the stake holes are all contemporaneous, or what function they served within the roundhouse. Consists of (114), (116), (122), (133), (135), (137), (139), (141), (143), (145), (147), (151), (153), (155), (157), (159), (161), and (163).	-
166	*Structure*	Single large granite orthostat forming the south-eastern door jamb of the roundhouse entrance, associated with (107).	-

Roundhouse/Hut circle, CSHER PRN 3291.03

Trench 2			**Type:** Hand excavated
Dimensions: 3.7m x 3.3m		**Max. depth:** 0.49m	**Ground level:** 254.41m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth**
201	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf, dark grey-brown silty loam with rare small granite inclusions, highly humic deposit. Overlies (202).	0-0.15m bgl
202	*Subsoil*	Dark brown-black, very humic silty loam, directly below (201); overlies (203).	0.15-0.31m bgl
203	*Layer*	Mid brown silty clay; natural silting event within the centre of roundhouse, derived from material washing in from surrounding area.	0.31-0.36m bgl
204	*Layer*	Mixed dark grey-brown/black and dark orange silty clay deposit with rare small granite inclusions. Mixed deposit interpreted as possible occupation layer which overlies possible floor surface (205). Charcoal rich, and	0.36-0.52m bgl
205	*Structure*	Layer of relatively flat granite stones interpreted as possible paved surface for roundhouse, overlain by (204).	0.14m
206	*Fill*	Dark grey-brown silty clay fill of small feature (207), derived from erosion of the feature edges; redeposited natural.	0.12m
207	*Cut*	Cut of possible posthole, sub-circular in shape with concave shallow sides and concave base, 0.36m in diameter and 0.12m deep. No evidence of packing and potentially part of internal structures within the roundhouse; associated with (209) and (210). Cuts decayed natural (214).	0.12m
208	*Layer*	Mixed mid grey-brown and dark orange silty clay, deposit directly below possible paved surface (205); appeared to seal stake hole (210) but not clear. Mixed nature possibly indicates an earlier occupation layer which was overlain by a new floor surface. Contained Middle Bronze Age pottery (Trevisker ware).	-
209	*Cut*	Cut of possible stakehole driven into (214), circular in shape with steep straight sides and flat base, 0.15m in diameter and 0.12m deep, revealed below (204).	0.12m
210	*Cut*	Cut of possible stakehole driven into (214), circular in shape with steep straight sides and flat base, 0.10m in diameter and 0.18m deep, revealed below (208).	0.18m
211	*Fill*	Mid brown silty clay fill of (209).	0.12m
212	*Fill*	Mid brown silty clay fill of (210).	0.18m
213	*Structure*	Partially exposed western wall of roundhouse, formed of unworked large granite stones; two courses identified, with larger stones to the base. Appeared	0.50m

		to be set directly upon (214).	
214	*Natural*	Mid orange-brown silty clay; decayed natural (rab).	-

Bank Cairn, CSHER PRN 3299.1

Trench 3			**Type:**	Hand excavated
Dimensions: 7.3m x 2.6m		**Max. depth:** 0.80m	**Ground level:** 275.68m aOD	
context	**description**			**depth**
301	*Topsoil*	Dark brown silty loam, very humic, peaty deposit. Current topsoil and turf.		0-0.10m bgl
302	*Layer*	Dark brown silty loam with abundant granite stones. Dump of rubble which overlies *in situ* archaeology. Material probably derived from the Bank Cairn but redeposited following the punching of a trackway through the monument. Loose material was banked up against the edges of the breach. Contained a number of modern bullets and barbed wire (Second World War activity).		
303	*Layer*	Dark brown silty loam with degraded granite fragments. Thin layer of material located within the breach below (302), nature of deposition not fully understood. Possible remnant of original ground surface.		
304	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown organic rich silty loam, possible buried original ground surface. Physically sealed by (307); stratigraphically earlier than (308) and (309).		
305	*Natural*	Mid orange-grey silty clay, degraded natural (rab) directly below the buried ground surface (304) .		
306	*Natural*	Mid orange-brown, degraded reworked natural (rab), sealed by (305).		
307	*Deposit*	Deliberate dump of irregular, unworked granite stones, infilling the space formed by two parallel stone walls (308) and (309).		
308	*Structure*	Large, relatively flat, unworked granite stones forming northern revetment wall of the Bank Cairn. Associated with (309) to create a double-walled alignment.		
309	*Structure*	Large, relatively flat, unworked granite stones forming southern revetment wall of the Bank Cairn. Associated with (308) to create a double-walled alignment.		
310	*Deposit*	Deliberate dump of irregular, unworked granite stones located to the north of revetment wall (308), forming outer support for the Bank Cairn.		
311	*Deposit*	Deliberate dump of irregular, unworked granite stones located to the south of revetment wall (309), forming outer support for the Bank Cairn.		
312	*Group*	Group number for the Bank Cairn. Formed of two parallel revetment walls (308) and (309) with infilling (307) and outer supporting dumps of material (310) and (311).		

Roundhouse/Hut circle, CSHER PRN 3291.01

Trench 4			**Type:**	Machine and Hand excavated
Dimensions: 13m x 1.5m		**Max. depth:** 0.45m	**Ground level:** 256.68m aOD	
context	**Description**			**depth**
401	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf, dark grey-brown silty loam, very organic. Overlies rubble dump (402) and *in situ* walling (403) and (404).		0-0.06m bgl
402	*Deposit*	Unworked granite rubble; dump of material which partially overlies wall (403). Rubble appears to be remnant of a cairn, though there is no discernible pattern to the stones.		0.06-0.50m bgl
403	*Structure*	Dry-stone wall only partially exposed, but forming the eastern wall of the possible ring cairn; rough unworked granite stones. Partially overlain by (402).		-
404	*Structure*	Dry-stone wall only partially exposed, but forming the western wall of the ring cairn; rough unworked granite stones.		-

405	*Layer*	Dark grey-brown silty loam; natural accumulation of material to the east of wall (404), towards the centre of the structure. Overlies (406).	0.10m
406	*Layer*	Mid grey silty loam layer; nature of deposit unknown. Revealed following removal of (405); overlies (407).	0.07m
407	*Fill*	Mid grey-brown silty clay fill of possible feature (410), overlies and fills stone lining (411) of (410). Charcoal rich deposit.	0.05m
408	*Layer*	Mid grey silty loam layer, nature of deposit unknown, cut by (410)	-
409	*VOID*	VOID	-
410	*Cut*	Arbitrary construction cut for stone lining (411) initially believed to be central hearth. Magnetic susceptibility scan, however, revealed the area was not extensively heat affected. Possibly cut into (408).	-
411	*Structure*	Possible granite lining for a feature positioned roughly centrally within the structure, thought to be hearth surround but not highly fired. Most likely to be dump of stone.	-
412	*Natural*	Mid orange silty clay; degraded natural rab, the regolith derived from the decayed underlying granite.	-

Trench 5			**Type:** Hand excavated
Dimensions: 1m x 1m		**Max. depth:** 0.46m	**Ground level:** 258.87m aOD
context	**Description**		**depth**
501	*Topsoil*	Current topsoil and turf, dark grey-brown silty loam, very organic.	0-0.11m bgl
502	Subsoil	Dark brown-black very humic silty loam directly below (501).	0.11-0.18m bgl
503	*Deposit*	Mid brown silty clay colluvium.	0.18-0.34m bgl
504	*Natural*	Degraded natural, mid orange silty clay. Potentially reworked rab.	0.34-0.46m bgl
505	*Natural*	Cleaner degraded natural, orange-brown silty clay (rab).	0.46m+ bgl

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

Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Unstrat.	TOTAL
Pottery	3/23	18/144	-	13/125	-	**34/292**
Prehistoric	*3/23*	*1/6*	-	*13/125*	-	***17/154***
Medieval/Post-Medieval	-	*17/138*	-	-	-	***17/138***
Stone	4/2302	1/535	-	-	-	**5/2837**
Flint	5/12	4/39	3/4	8/67	1/8	**21/130**
Burnt Flint	-	-	-	-	1/8	**1/8**
Glass	1/1	1/2	-	-	-	**2/3**
Metalwork	3	-	9	5	-	**17**
Gold	-	-	-	*1*	-	***1***
Copper Alloy	*1*	-	*5*	*3*	-	***9***
Iron	*2*	-	*4*	*1*	-	*7*

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

										Residue
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	seeds charred	Charcoal 4/2 mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm
Trench 1										
Occupation layer	106	1	28	1000 [80]	-	-	-	15/15ml	-	-
floor?	109	2	28	500 [80]	-	-	C(h)	10/10ml	-	15ml
stakehole 114	115	5		300 [80]	-	-	-	5/5ml	-	30ml
Trench 2										
occupation level	204	3	16	250 [70]	-	-	C	10/7ml	-	5ml
posthole? 207	206	6	5	220 [40]	-	-	A	10/10ml	-	-
Trench 4				Possible roundhouse						
deposit	408	4	11	500 [10]	-	-	B(h)	20/30ml	-	2ml
feature 410	407	7	28	1400 [50]	-	-	A(h)	?80/90ml	-	10ml

KEY: A* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts

NOTE: [1]flot is total, but flot in superscript = % of rooty material.

Wessex Archaeology

Date:	23/05/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:8000 & 1:500000	Illustrator:	WAF
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\62500TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Assessment\07_05_22\62500_Assess.dwg		

Site Location

Figure 1

Wessex Archaeology

Geophysical data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd

Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	WAF
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Scale:	1:1500
Path:	

Y:\PROJECTS\62300TT\Drawing Office\Report Figures (y-m)\Assessment\07_05_2262500_Assess.dwg

Trench location and magnetic survey results

Figure 2

Trench 1 from the south-west

Trench 1 from the west

Date:	23/05/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50	Illustrator:	WAF
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Wessex Archaeology

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Trench 2

Figure 4

Bank Cairn looking towards Showery Tor

North west facing section of bank cairn

Trench 3 from the south

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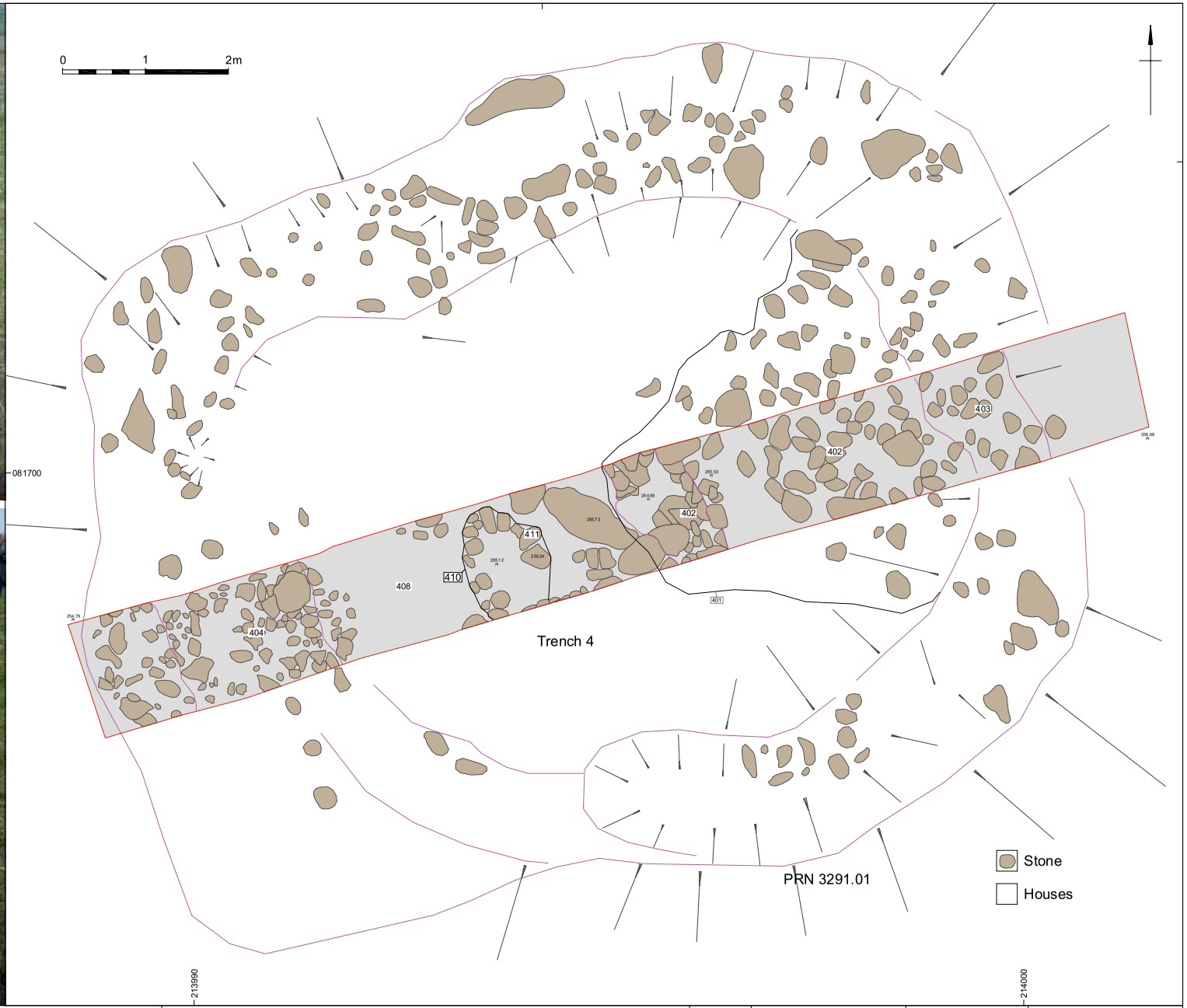
Trench 4 pre-excavation shot from the east

Detail of cairn rubble (402) from the west



Wessex Archaeology

Date:	23/05/07	Revision Number:	0
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Trench 1

Trench 5 from the north

081620

258.87

Trench 5

214025

0 1 2m

Date:	29/05/07	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:50	Illustrator:	WAF
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Wessex Archaeology

Trench 5

Figure 7

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