

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest**

Archaeological Strip, Map & Sample



By  
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Report No. 1325



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## Summary

*In January 2015 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a 'strip, map & sample' archaeological investigation on a site near Shoals Hook Farm, near Haverfordwest, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (SM 97325 16776). Investigation of the site was commissioned by Camborne Capital Ltd, on the recommendation of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust as a condition associated with planning application (14/0056/PA) regarding the construction of a photovoltaic solar farm.*

*The 'strip, map & sample' followed a series of previous archaeological investigations of the development area that comprised a desk-based assessment (Meek 2014), geophysical survey (Houliston & Keen 2014) and evaluation trenching (Poucher 2015). The 'strip, map & sample' comprised the removal of topsoil and ploughsoil deposits across an area of approximately 0.5ha. This had been identified by the previous archaeological investigations as a likely area of archaeological activity, potentially associated with Prehistoric or Romano-British settlement. The area was hand-cleaned and planned, but limited intrusive archaeological investigation was undertaken as it was agreed during the course of the works that the site would be preserved and therefore no further disturbance of archaeological remains was required. The purpose of the work was to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.*

*A series of curvilinear gullies, ditches, enclosures, postholes and pits were uncovered throughout the area. Three probable, and a further three possible, roundhouse remains were identified, along with a posthole structure interpreted as a possible raised granary. Numerous other postholes, pits, linear features and deposits of a less certain function were also identified across the area. These features appear to indicate a settlement site, and were largely contained by a series of straight linear ditches to the north that are interpreted as field enclosure ditches. These ditches appeared to feed into a sub-square enclosure at the northeast corner of the site, interpreted as an animal enclosure.*

*Pottery remains recovered from various features across the site (including a possible roundhouse) have largely been dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, although the form of the settlement would appear to be Iron Age in character. This suggests a rural settlement site of Iron Age origin, which was occupied into the Romano-British period, but possibly abandoned by the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Unusually for this period, this site does not appear to have been enclosed by any substantial defensive banks and ditches. One pit within the site produced a significant quantity of medieval pottery, although no further clear indication of medieval activity was recorded at the site.*

*This site adds significantly to an emerging picture of settlement and activity within Pembrokeshire in the Romano-British period. Following further discussion between the archaeological planning advisor at Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the developer it was agreed to exclude the area of archaeological activity from the subsequent development.*

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW), in response to a request by Camborne Capital Ltd, to carry out a programme of 'strip, map and sample' in an area of identified archaeological remains on land near Shoals Hook Farm, near Haverfordwest (Archaeology Wales Project Number 2287, site code SHFH/14/EX).
- 1.2 The site consists of an area of approximately 0.5ha located at the northern end of an agricultural field between Shoals Hook Farm and Good Hook Farm, to the northeast of Haverfordwest; NGR SM 97325 16776, see figures 1 & 2. A planning application has been approved to develop the site and construct a solar powered farm (photovoltaic panels) across several fields (planning application no. 14/0056/PA). The area subject to the 'strip, map and sample' had previously been used for both grazing and crop production.
- 1.3 A previous archaeological desk-based assessment of the development area was produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Archaeological Services (Meek 2014). This was followed by a geophysical survey of the whole site by Archaeology Wales (Houliston & Keen 2014). The geophysical survey identified potential archaeological features surviving within several of the fields.
- 1.4 As a result of these findings, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services (DAT-PS), in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Pembrokeshire County Council), recommended that an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in order to assess the potential for the archaeological resource at the site. This evaluation (Poucher 2015) identified the remains of gullies, ditches and post-holes in a concentrated area at the northern end of one field. This was identified as an area of potential settlement activity, tentatively dated to the Iron Age or Romano-British period.
- 1.5 In order to fully understand the nature and extent of the archaeological resource in this area DAT-PS recommended that a programme of 'strip, map and sample' be undertaken. This programme comprised stripping the topsoil from an area measuring approximately 68m by 75m, down to the archaeological or natural horizon, whichever was encountered first. The area was subsequently cleaned, archaeological remains were sample excavated to establish relationships and the site was planned. The work was designed to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. After a further period of consultation with DAT-PS and the developer it was agreed to exclude the area of archaeological remains from the development.
- 1.6 The work was undertaken in January 2015. The work was managed by Mark Houliston and carried out under the supervision of Andrew Shobbrook.
- 1.7 This report details the findings from the programme of 'Strip, map and sample', incorporating the results of the previous archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey within the site area.
- 1.8 All work conformed to the ClfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014) and was undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

## **2 Site description**

- 2.1 The site lies at the northern end of a field - labelled as 'Field 2' in the previous geophysical (Houliston & Keen 2014) and evaluation (Poucher 2015) reports - on farmland near to Shoals Hook Farm, to the northwest of Haverfordwest and south of Crundale (SM 97244 16933). The field had previously been in agricultural use. The field continues to the south, and is bounded on all other sides by hedegrows.
- 2.2 The site occupies the summit of a slight rise on an east – west aligned ridge. The general topography drops away gradually to the south and north, with the majority of the site on the slight north-facing slopes. To the south the field continues for another c.200m beyond which the land drops more steeply into a local stream and area of boggy ground. To the south of this lies the Haverfordwest golf club. Immediately beyond the northern field boundary is a sunken farm track between Shoals Hook and Good Hook farms, with land then continuing to fall away down to the Fenton Brook. To the west agricultural land continues to Shoals Hook Farm and the land is then crossed north – south by a railway line and Cartlett Brook, beyond which lies Prendergast on the outskirts of Haverfordwest. To the east agricultural land continues to Good Hook farm and beyond.
- 2.3 The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, which is largely of the Ashgill Rocks (Undifferentiated) formation, overlain by glacial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey information 2008).

### **3 Historical Background**

- 3.1 A previous archaeological Desk-Based Assessment by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Archaeological Services (Meek 2014) identified no known archaeological remains within the planned development area.
- 3.2 In the wider landscape, several sites dating to the Bronze Age (c.2300 – 700 BC) were identified. These comprised two round barrows, two or three standing stones and two burnt mound sites, which suggests the site lies within a Bronze Age funerary and ritual landscape. Consideration of the topography of the immediate area indicated that this landscape could be represented within the development area in the form of burnt mounds and burials, with possible settlement activity on the gentle slopes.
- 3.3 Although not identified within the study area around the site (which extended 1km from the site boundary), within the wider landscape this area of Pembrokeshire is relatively rich in Iron Age (c.700 BC – c. AD 43) activity, largely in the form of defended enclosures.
- 3.4 Subsequent Roman (c.AD 43 – c.AD 410) and early medieval (c.AD 410 – AD 1066) archaeological sites are not well recorded in the general area, and no sites dating to these periods were identified within the study area. However, a Roman fort and settlement site have recently come to light in Wiston to the east (Meek & Wilson 2013) and a road westward from that site (or eastward towards it) is likely to have passed through the locality of this site.
- 3.5 Similarly, medieval (1066 – 1536) sites are also unrecorded, although it was noted that nearby farmsteads, such as Good Hook farm to the east, may have medieval predecessors. Haverfordwest to the southwest was an important regional settlement throughout the medieval period. It is possible the field system in this area was laid out during this period.
- 3.6 The majority of the recorded archaeological sites within the study area date to the post-medieval period (1536 – 1899). These largely consist of houses, buildings and farmsteads, many identified on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. Other sites include a mill, small quarries, milestones and a tollgate. No sites are recorded within the bounds of the development area although the former Stone Park homestead (PRN 44898) lay close to the edge of the development area to the west.
- 3.7 Several modern sites recorded in the area largely relate to RAF Haverfordwest to the west, within Withybush.

### **4 Previous investigation**

- 4.1 Following completion of the desk-based assessment (Meek 2014), a geophysical survey was undertaken across the entire development area (Houlston & Keen 2014). This survey identified numerous potential features across the development area. The geophysical survey results are reproduced in Figure 9.
- 4.2 In light of these findings an archaeological evaluation was undertaken across the whole area, comprising a total of 27 trenches of varying lengths to investigate areas of archaeological potential identified from the geophysical survey. This archaeological evaluation identified a number of natural geological features and post-medieval field

boundaries and discrete pits of limited archaeological interest across the site area, but also identified an area of greater archaeological interest at the northern end of Field 2.

- 4.3 Three trenches at the northern end of Field 2 revealed a series of curvilinear gullies, postholes and ditches, some of which were intercutting, and for which a small number of ceramic finds suggested might be Romano-British, or possibly earlier, in date. The occurrence of these features in a concentrated area suggested a possible settlement site.

## **5 Methodology**

- 5.1 Following further consultation between DAT-PS and the developer regarding the findings of the archaeological evaluation it was agreed to undertake a 'strip, map and sample' investigation at the northern end of Field 2 in order to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.
- 5.2 An area measuring approximately 68m north-south by 75m east-west was stripped under archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The area stripped is illustrated in Figure 2. Modern overburden, consisting of topsoil and ploughsoil, was removed down to the top of identified archaeological deposits or the natural soil horizon.
- 5.3 All areas were hand cleaned to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. Sample excavations were undertaken on a number of the features uncovered in the western half of the stripped area (see Figure 4). Recording was carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc.), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 5.4 Investigations on the eastern half of the stripped area were limited to cleaning and recording in plan form. It was agreed at this point in the investigation that the archaeological remains were significant and that they should be preserved *in situ* and undisturbed once they had been planned and therefore intrusive archaeological investigation of features in this area was not required.
- 5.5 Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail were maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs were taken using cameras with resolutions of 5 mega pixels or above.
- 5.6 Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, see Figures 4 - 7.
- 5.7 The fieldwork was carried out in January 2015.
- 5.8 A site monitoring visit was undertaken by a representative of DAT-PS during the course of the archaeological work.

## 6 Results (Figures 4 – 7)

Topsoil and underlying ploughsoil deposits were stripped from across the site area. They consisted of a topsoil of mid grey-brown silty-clay (deposit 001) overlying a lighter grey-brown silty-clay (deposit 002), taken together averaging 0.3m in depth. A small range of late post-medieval and modern ceramics were recovered from these deposits, typical evidence of ploughing on the site since at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. One fragment of unworked flint was also recovered from the ploughsoil deposit, along with four fragments of medieval pottery. The removal of these deposits revealed a subsoil deposit (deposit 003) of light yellow to orange-brown stony silty-clay, with fragmented bedrock deposits, and silt and clay lenses becoming apparent in places, all of which however proved to be naturally occurring variations in the subsoil. A large number of archaeological features were visible cutting into or overlying this subsoil layer. These archaeological features largely comprised of cut features and included ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, with some evidence of archaeological layers surviving largely to the east. To aid in the description of the archaeological features below, they have been divided into several 'areas', illustrated on the accompanying plans (Figure 3). Where features have also been investigated in the previous evaluation stage of investigation context numbers allocated during the evaluation are prefixed with 'E'. The findings from the current phase of works are fully considered along with findings of previous archaeological investigations within the subsequent Discussion and Conclusion sections.

### 6.1 Area 1 (Photos 3 – 6)

- 6.1.1 In the northwest corner of the site was a concentration of curvilinear gullies, pits and postholes. At the southern end of this area is a curvilinear gully c.16m in length, at most 0.6m wide [Gully 146/E803]. This gully was 0.25m deep with an almost V-shaped profile, containing a single fill (deposit E804) of dark to mid-brown silty-clay with stone and occasional charcoal inclusions. Fragments of pottery recovered from this deposit include mortaria originating from Caerleon, and dateable to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. This gully appeared to represent the southern half of a circular enclosure with the northern half fading away and possibly partly truncated by later ploughing. Remnants of the northern half of the circular enclosure appear however to be represented by a similar curvilinear segment [Gully 157], 3.5m in length, although a direct relationship could not be proved. If the two curvilinear segments are related they would indicate a circular enclosure 11.8m in diameter.
- 6.1.2 Sub-circular features 140, 142, 150, 151, 154, 155 and 156 appear to also lie along a projected line of this possible circular enclosure. These features appeared relatively ephemeral, but may represent either surviving fragments of the gully or postholes along its circumference. Features 154 and 155 may be of particular note. Both features are sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.7m to 0.8m in diameter, and spaced 1.9m apart, of a size consistent with posthole settings. Similar arrangements of postholes are suggested on the eastern side of other circular features within the site, it is suggested that these may represent some form of entranceway structure.
- 6.1.3 A short distance (0.9m) to the north of the southern segment of gully 146/E803, and mirroring its northward curve, was a 0.8m wide and 6.6m long curvilinear feature [Feature 147]. This feature was somewhat ephemeral in nature, at most 0.1m deep

with shallow sides and an irregular base. As it appears to so closely match the line of Gully 146/E803 it is possible that it represents some internal deposit or associated internal, heavily truncated, foundation. A semi-circular feature immediately to the west [Feature 149] is assumed to be a continuation of this 147 given the similarity in infilling material and its occurrence adjacent to and on the same curvilinear alignment.

- 6.1.4 Approximately 3.8m to north of the main outer circular enclosure gully [146/E803] was another curvilinear gully [Gully 145/E807], again 0.25m in depth but with a slightly more U-shaped profile. This contained a single loose mid-brown silty-clay (deposit E808). This gully was at least 11.4m long and also had a northward curve, although a somewhat shallower curve than was visible in the southern gully. No other segments of this gully [145/E807] were revealed, although if this too formed part of a possible truncated circular enclosure then a projection of its curve would suggest a diameter of c.12.5m. It is probably of note however that this projection would take it beyond ditch 213 to the north, which appears to demarcate a northern limit to the main area of archaeological activity, and also of note that the identified extent of this gully is contained within the projected limits of the circular enclosure represented by gullies 146/E803 and 157.
- 6.1.5 To the west lies another segment of curvilinear gully [133], 6.2m long, up to 0.85m wide. No corresponding segment of curvilinear gully survives to suggest this formed part of a circular feature, although a speculative projection of the curvilinear line of this gully would suggest an enclosure roughly 9m in diameter, clearly smaller and intersecting with the line of the circular enclosure to the east.
- 6.1.6 Spread throughout this area are a number of circular and sub-circular features that may represent pits but largely, due to their size and/or large stone inclusions, appear to represent postholes. Some of these postholes lie on the line of the recorded and projected gullies. Posthole E809, which measured 0.4m by 0.53m, 0.33m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base, cut through the infilling material of Gully 145/E807. A similar relationship is suggested by postholes 150 and 151, both of which contained large stones suggesting post-packing material, and both appeared in plan to be cutting the fill of gully 146/E803. These intercutting relationships would suggest two phases of activity, although as they occur on the same alignments it may suggest sub-phases within a broadly contemporary period of activity.
- 6.1.7 Some postholes or pits however do not lie on these circular alignments. Feature 148/E805 survived to a depth of 0.36m and was 0.9m in diameter, with steep concave sides and a concave base. It contained several infilling deposits which appeared to contain post-packing material suggesting a posthole. No finds were recovered from this feature. To the northwest lies a cluster of circular and sub-circular features. These consist of a large, almost sub-rectangular feature on its western side [Posthole 134], measuring 1.3m by 0.85m, with three adjacent sub-circular features almost touching one another to the east, all c.0.6m in diameter [Postholes 135, 136 & 137] and two smaller circular features to the southeast c.0.4m in diameter [Postholes 138 & 139]. The features all contained a similar infilling deposits, with large stones evident within both 134 and 139 suggestive of post-packing material.
- 6.1.8 Pit 125 consisted of the relatively shallow (0.1m deep) remains of a sub-circular feature 0.6m in diameter, located immediately to the north of Gully 146/E803. This



feature contained a single fill (deposit 126) of very dark-brown silty-loam, almost organic in appearance, but containing several fragments of pottery and possible hammer stone. The pottery was a coarse brown to reddish-yellow material with quartz inclusions that would appear to represent Dyfed Gravel-Tempered Wares (see Appendix II). This type of pottery is common in southwest Wales but has a very broad date range possibly from the late-12<sup>th</sup> century through to the early-16<sup>th</sup> century. This medieval date, and also the organic content of the infilling material, is uncharacteristic of the site as a whole.

## **6.2 Area 2 (Photos 7 – 11)**

- 6.2.1 In the southwest corner of the site is another concentration on archaeological features, comprising linear, curvilinear and sub-circular features.
- 6.2.2 A curvilinear feature [Gully 004] roughly 6m in length and 0.2m wide appeared to define a circular enclosure, although the northward continuation was very ephemeral. At its deepest this gully was 0.4m deep, with moderate to steep, straight to concave sides onto a narrow concave base, an almost V-shaped profile similar to that seen within the gullies to the north. It contained a single fill (deposit 005) of mid grey-brown clayey-silt. Fragments of Roman mortaria pottery was recovered from this deposit, dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The projected outline of the circular enclosure may have incorporated two postholes [Posthole 006 & 008]. Posthole 006 was sub-circular in plan, 0.8m in diameter with a steep straight western edge and a moderate straight eastern edge onto a pointed base. The single fill (deposit 007) of mid grey-brown silty-clay contained a few fragments of charcoal, some burnt clay and what appeared to be remnants of post-packing stones. Posthole 008 lay 0.7m to the north, and was oval in plan, measuring 0.6m by 1m and 0.2m deep. In profile it had moderate concave sides and a concave base, with a single fill (deposit 009) of mid brown silty-clay containing some very large post-packing stones. This pair of postholes may represent remnants of entranceway structure on the eastern side of the circular enclosure.
- 6.2.3 Three straight linear features were recorded in this cluster of features, all running on a roughly NNE – SSW orientation for up to 11.5m, 0.3m wide and spaced between 2.5m and 5m apart. Gully 004 intersected two of these linear features, the relationship with linear 250 was unclear, but it cut linear 119. This linear was shown to have straight steep sides and a narrow concave base containing two fills. Deposit 121 was a stony mid-brown silty-clay that appeared to represent the backfill of a slot along the centre of the linear feature, suggesting a central fenceline. Deposit 120 was a compact light yellowish-brown clayey sand that appears to have been packed down on either side of this slot. No finds were recovered from these deposits. Postholes 006 and 008 were also both shown to cut linear 251.

## **6.3 Area 3 (Photos 12 – 16)**

- 6.3.1 The central and southern part of the site contained an extensive concentration of archaeological features. This area consists of a mix of curvilinear gullies and pits and postholes.

- 6.3.2 A possible circular enclosure is suggested by curvilinear gully 162. This gully is c.13m in length, at most 0.65m wide. It contained an upper visible fill of mid reddish-brown stony silty-clay that contained fragments of Roman pottery with a broad date range from the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century. The curve of this linear would appear to correspond well to a potential circular feature 11m in diameter, the line of which may incorporate posthole 174 but also meets the visible termini of Gullies 190/E905 and 194.
- 6.3.3 Externally there appears to be three curvilinear features that terminate at the known or projected line of Gully 162. Gully 194 is a largely east – west orientated linear feature, 0.5m wide, which runs for 13m before curving to run southeast for another 6m. The feature become ephemeral and very shallow towards its western end, but may continue further to the southeast, beyond the area investigated. Gully 190/E905 totalled 13.4m in length, 0.25m wide and 0.25m deep with a typical V-shaped profile. Two fills were identified, a lower fill (deposit E913) of loose grey clayey-silt with the occasional charcoal fleck and burnt stone, with similar inclusions in the upper fill (deposit E906/E912) of loose mid yellow-brown silty-clay. The gully extended in a NNW – SSE direction for c.8m before curving around to the west and northwest. The angle of the curve would appear too sharp for this feature to represent a circular enclosure itself. The third curvilinear feature [161] is a short 2.5m long feature that extends in a SSW direction from the southern edge of gully 162, curving around to the southeast, although this may also potentially be associated with Gully 189.
- 6.3.4 Curvilinear Gully 189 measures 5.8m long and 0.6m wide, and projects south-westwards from the line of Gully 190/E905. The relationship between 189 and 190/E905 was not investigated, although no continuation beyond the line of 190/E905 was visible. A possible projected circular enclosure incorporating this fragment of gully may include postholes 110, 168 and 169, or alternatively gully 161.
- 6.3.5 Gully 190/E905 is cut by another curvilinear gully [Gully E903], 3.3m to the west of Gully 189. This gully [E903] was exposed for a length of c.3.6m and appeared to terminate at a posthole [E909] immediately beyond the intersection with Gully 190/E905, whilst also fading out to the south. In profile it was also V-shaped, at most 0.53m wide, 0.23m deep, containing a single fill (deposit E904) of loose yellow-brown silty-clay that contained distinctive inclusions of large flat stone fragments laid in a rough V-shape mirroring the profile of the cut, possibly to aid drainage. Some small rough fragments of pottery were recovered from this deposit, unfortunately too small and degraded to be accurately dated. It is possible this gully may have formed a fragment of a larger circular enclosure, although no continuation of a projected circular feature could be identified.
- 6.3.6 As with Area 1 there were a large number of pits or postholes in this area, some of which would appear to either be on the projected line of circular enclosures or appeared to truncate gullies.
- 6.3.7 Within the potential confines of gully 162 were a series of possible pits and postholes and a curvilinear feature 163 that appeared to mirror the linear of gully 162. These features were recorded in plan but otherwise were not investigated. Feature 163 was infilled by a mid grey-brown silty-clay, and measured 6m long and 1.1m wide. A single sherd of Samian ware was recovered from this deposit that would appear to be South

Gaulish in origin and dateable to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century, similar in date to the pottery recovered from gully 162.

- 6.3.8 Potential postholes 164 - 167, were all of similar dimensions, circular in plan and roughly 0.6m in diameter and were clustered in a small rectangular arrangement enclosing an area c.1m by 0.7m, suggestive of some small structural feature. To the east a larger oval pit 171, 1.1m by 1.7m, appeared to be flanked to the north and south by two smaller pits or postholes of similar shape and size [Postholes 170 & 172], 0.8m in diameter.
- 6.3.9 Alongside these features a large number of postholes or pits ranging from 0.5m to 1.4m in diameter are recorded scattered throughout this area, with no obvious structural arrangement visible.

#### **6.4    *Area 4 (Photos 17 & 18)***

- 6.4.1 To the north of Area 3 there is an arrangement of 12 possible pit or postholes features [175 – 186] that cover an area 5.5m<sup>2</sup>. These circular features range in size from 0.4m to 1m in diameter, with post-packing material visible at surface level. At least six of these features appear to define a roughly square area, suggesting they belong to part of a posthole structure. Possible postholes 185 and 186, and possibly also 180, appear slightly out of alignment and may therefore not be part of the same initial structure.
- 6.4.2 No dating evidence was recovered from these features, and as they were uncovered after it was agreed that no further excavation was required, no samples were taken from the features to prove their function.

#### **6.5    *Area 5 (Photos 19 & 20)***

- 6.5.1 In the northeast corner of the site a sub-square enclosure is clearly defined in plan. This enclosure is defined by a ditch [Ditch 210] up to 0.9m wide with squared eastern corners, and rounded western corners, enclosing an area 17.5m east – west by 18.5m north – south. Internally an L-shaped linear feature [Ditch 211] runs around the northwest corner of the enclosure. This feature is 25.2m long, up to 1m wide and is set 1.2m in from the edge of the main enclosure ditch. The two linear features are clearly related as they follow parallel alignments.
- 6.5.2 This enclosure appears to be associated with a series of linear ditches along the northern edge of the site. A 0.65m wide linear feature runs [Ditch 213] in a WNW – ESE direction for at least 46m before turning south at the point it meets the inner enclosure ditch [Ditch 211]. This linear feature [Ditch 213] also appears to demarcate the northern limit of archaeological activity recorded in Areas 1 – 4. Extending in a north-south direction from this linear is a similarly sized linear [Ditch 216] running for at least 12.5m, extending beyond the area stripped to the north. These two linear features are clearly related and it suggested form larger field enclosures. A third linear feature [Ditch 252] also orientated north – south, lies to the east, extending for at least 21.3m and crossing both outer and inner enclosure ditches to enter the enclosure c.8m to the east of Ditch 216. The orientation clearly indicates this too forms part of the suggested field enclosures, and their positioning appears deliberately

designed to terminate within the sub-square enclosure formed by ditches 210 and 211, indicating a clear link between these features. To further suggest this a thin curvilinear feature [Gully 215], 4.8m long and 0.15m wide, terminates to the north at the inner enclosure ditch [Ditch 211], and to the south at field enclosure linear [Ditch 252]. A further linear feature [Ditch 253] lies 2.2m to the east of field enclosure linear, running parallel in a north – south direction, and mirroring a slight curve in the linear but also terminating at the outer enclosure ditch [210] to the north and within the enclosure to the south. This linear feature is 0.5m wide and 16.6m long.

- 6.5.3 Within the enclosure are a large number of small circular and sub-circular features varying in size from 0.4m to 1.4m in diameter. They appear in two main clusters, one in the northwest corner of the enclosure [220 – 230], and one towards the southern edge of the enclosure [232 – 238]. No clear structural arrangements are immediately obvious, it is possible these features may form small temporary structures or fencelines, or individual posts within the enclosure.
- 6.5.4 No dateable material was recovered from any features directly associated with the sub-square enclosure, internal features or possible field enclosures.

## **6.6 Area 6 (Photos 21 – 24)**

- 6.6.1 External to the enclosure are a number of further features and deposits of archaeological interest. Extending from the northeast corner of the outer enclosure ditch is a linear feature [Ditch 248]. It runs in an east – west direction for 2m before turning to run in a NNE direction for a further c.5.5m. Along this stretch it averages 0.6m wide, at this point it appears to turn again to run once more in an easterly direction but also appear to widen to at most 3.4m wide. It then gradually reduces in width back to its original 0.6m as it continues eastwards for another 9m, this widening however would appear to be a spread of the infilling material downslope. A shallow contractor-excavated trench 20m to the east appeared to pick up a continuation of this linear feature [Ditch 130]. At this point the revealed profile was 0.6m wide, c.0.6m deep with steep to moderate concave sides and a concave base. It contained two fills, the lower of which (deposit 254) was a dark grey clay, suggesting a build-up of washed in deposits. The upper fill (deposit 131) was a mid orange-brown silty-clay, and appeared to represent backfilling of the feature.
- 6.6.2 Further to south was a sub-circular area roughly 5m east - west by 6.5m that appeared to stop at the outer enclosure ditch (deposit 243). This area consisted of a fragmentary cover of large flat and worn stones laid roughly level, covered by a build-up of mid grey-brown silty-clay. The overlying deposit covered the whole area, although the full extent of the underlying stone surface was not entirely revealed. The worn and level nature of the stones suggested a deliberately laid stone surface. Extending to the northeast was a thin irregular linear feature [Gully 247], 6.4m long, 0.3m wide, filled with a mid to dark brown silty-clay. It was not clear if this represented the remains of a small gully or was the result of natural activity, such as animal burrowing.
- 6.6.3 To the south of this was a further large amorphous area of grey-brown silty-clay (deposit 195). This was spread over an area c.9m by c.7m with no clear linearity to its

edges. This area was not further investigated, although no evidence for further surfacing was revealed.

- 6.6.4 To the west was a spread of circular and sub-circular features, typically between 0.6m and 0.8m in diameter, extending towards the corner of the outer enclosure ditch [Postholes 199 – 208]. A short linear feature was recorded at the northwest end of this cluster [Gully 209], 3.8m long, 0.5m wide with a concentration of medium to large stones at its western end suggesting a possible posthole at this point.
- 6.6.5 To the northeast of the large amorphous spread of material (deposit 195) was a collection of three short linear features {Gullies 196, 197 & 198}, all 2.5m long and between 0.4m and 0.7m wide.
- 6.6.6 No dateable material was recovered from any feature within this area.

## **7 Finds (see Appendices I - III)**

### **7.1 Ceramics**

- 7.1.1 A small quantity of ceramics (67 sherds) was recovered during the course of the archaeological strip, map and sample. These were considered along with a further 12 sherds from the four evaluation trenches (Trench 8, 9, 26 & 27) within the same area. They exhibited a broad date range from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. These finds were assessed by two different specialists. Post-medieval ceramics were readily identifiable as belonging to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and were therefore not further assessed. Roman material was examined by Rob Perrin and medieval material was examined by Paul Blinkhorn, which also included reappraisal of some of the Roman material. Their pottery reports are included as Appendices to the rear of the report (Appendix I & II).
- 7.1.2 Topsoil and ploughsoil deposits across the site contained the entirety of the post-medieval ceramics (15 sherds), dated from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These were dispersed throughout the topsoil, typical of general agricultural activity over those periods. Four sherds of glazed and unglazed Dyfed gravel-tempered ware were also recovered from ploughsoil deposits. This pottery has a broad date range from the late 12<sup>th</sup> through to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, although the glazed pottery is more closely dateable to the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 7.1.3 The remainder of the medieval ceramics (46 sherds) were recovered from a single context, within the fill (deposit 126) of pit 125. This pottery was also unglazed Dyfed gravel-tempered ware with a broad date range from the late 12<sup>th</sup> through to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery in the topsoil may suggest that all medieval pottery is likely to correspond to this date range, although the glazed material was recovered out of context, and some distance (c.55m) from Pit 125.
- 7.1.4 The remaining ceramics have all been dated to the Romano-British period, i.e. between the late 1<sup>st</sup> century and the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. They were all recovered from secure contexts. This pottery includes mortaria, from Caerleon [Gully 146] and possibly Wroxeter [Gully 004], dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century. One fragment of samian ware was also recovered (deposit 163), probably south Gaulish in origin and also dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century. South Wales grey ware was also recorded [Gully 162], which has a broader date range from the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century. One small fragment of possible black-burnished ware is recorded [Posthole 138], dated from the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century. However, this fragment was not recognised as black-burnished by both specialists, and was broadly dated by Rob Perrin as late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The Romano-British ceramics therefore would appear to all broadly fit a late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date, and have also been characterised as a small but relatively high status collection.

### **7.2 Lithics/stone**

- 7.2.1 One unworked, and undiagnostic, flint fragment was recovered from ploughsoil deposits.

- 7.2.2 A rounded stone, the function of which is unknown, was recovered alongside the quantity of medieval pottery from deposit 126 within Pit 125.
- 7.2.3 A rough stone, with a possible flattened edge suggesting use as a whetstone, was recovered from Gully 146. Associated pottery would suggest a Romano-British date.
- 7.2.4 A fragment of quern stone, measuring 0.41m by 0.28m and 0.15m thick, was recovered from ploughsoil deposits, clearly therefore out of context. The origin and date of the quern stone has not been verified.

### 7.3 Miscellaneous

- 7.3.1 Three small amorphous fragments of slag-type material were recovered from the fill (deposit 009) of Posthole 008.
- 7.3.2 A significant quantity of heat-reddened clay was also recovered from the fill (deposit 009) of Posthole 008. Smaller quantities of similar material were also recovered from the fill (deposit 007) or adjacent Posthole 006 and the secondary fill (deposit 121) of nearby linear feature 119.

## 8 **Environmental Assessment** (see Appendix IV)

- 8.1 Bulk samples were taken from several features during the course of the initial excavation work, however the sampling strategy was modified once it was decided to leave the archaeological remains *in situ* and undisturbed and therefore samples were not taken from many of the identified archaeological features across the central and northeast areas of the site. Due to the nature of the features excavated samples were largely taken from shallow gullies or small postholes and were therefore relatively small in size. The majority of these samples also came from features whose function and date could be largely determined through their form and finds. However, a series of ditch segments in the southwest area of the site (Ditches E2603, E2605 and E2607) contained larger quantities of material, no datable finds and were of a form that was not readily understandable within the context of the site as a whole. Therefore bulk samples were processed from these three ditch fill deposits in order to both attempt to gain a better understanding of the features themselves, but to also assess the general environmental potential of the site as a whole.
- 8.2 Initial processing was undertaken by Irma Bernadus of Archaeology Wales using bucket floatation. Sub-samples were subsequently sent to Wendy Carruthers for an assessment of the charred plant remains. A full report is reproduced in Appendix IV.
- 8.3 In summary all three ditches produced similar results with a surprisingly high number of charred plant remains coming from the small samples examined. The remains consisted of small fragments of chaff from emmer/spelt wheat, weed seeds and a nutshell. This demonstrates that arable agriculture was taking place locally. A high degree of fragmentation from the chaff may be due to trampling or redeposition, possibly due to being swept from a floor, or alternatively it may represent post-burial damage. One of the weed seeds come from a species typically found today on poor acidic ground, such as moors and heaths, but was known to be an arable weed particularly during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Another weed seed

typically required more nutrient-rich soil than occurs naturally in this area, therefore suggesting manuring may have been carried out to improve the soil. These samples help to explain agricultural activity on the site as a whole, but add little to explain the specific function of the features from which they were recovered.

- 8.4 No precise dateable material was produced, and the examined cereal samples were considered too small to be used for radiocarbon dating purposes. Larger samples may produce better samples for radiocarbon dating, although many of the sampled features at this site produced ceramic finds that can be reasonably closely dated.
- 8.5 The environmental potential of the site is considered to be high, particularly as the site appears an unusual form for the region. Further environmental processing is recommended by Wendy Carruthers to secure better evidence for the arable economy of the site.



## 9 Discussion and Conclusions

### 9.1 Overall Interpretation (Figure 8)

- 9.1.1 The concentration of archaeological remains, which includes the remains of several possible roundhouses, a possible granary, and relatively slight enclosure ditches, would suggest a settlement site with associated field and animal enclosures. Ceramics indicate a Romano-British date, with a concentration of finds in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The form of the site would indicate possible Iron Age origins, although, unusually for the area, the site appears to be unenclosed by defensive banks and ditches.

### 9.2 Roundhouses

- 9.2.1 A characteristic feature of this site was the presence of a number of curvilinear gullies that, where excavated, proved to have similar, V-shaped, profiles. These features were all relatively shallow and it appears likely that their full extents have been truncated through later agricultural activity. However, as detailed in Section 5 above, several of these gullies can be projected into circular enclosures, of a size and form that suggests they represent roundhouses.
- 9.2.2 In Area 1, Gully 146/E803, considered with Gully 157, suggests the location of a roundhouse (Roundhouse 1) c.11.8m in diameter. Postholes 156, 155, 154, 151 and 150 (and possibly 140) are also on this alignment, which indicates that the gully forms part of the truncated foundations of the building itself rather than a drip gully. This is further suggested by the lack of clear structural posts within the circular enclosure. Postholes 155 and 154 may represent an entranceway, because the gully does not continue between them. Features 147 and 149 appear to be remnants of internal deposits. They are curvilinear in nature and respect the line of Gully 146/E803.
- 9.2.3 Gully 133 may represent remnants of another roundhouse (Roundhouse 2), c.9m in diameter. This would be smaller than Roundhouse 1, and clearly from a separate phase of activity as the two projected roundhouse outlines clearly overlap - although no direct relationship between the two is provable.
- 9.2.4 Gully E807/145 may be the remains of another roundhouse, although the curve on this feature is much flatter. The projected line of a possible roundhouse from this point would take it to the north of linear feature 213, which seems unlikely, as this feature appears to demarcate the limit of the postulated settlement site. It is more likely, therefore, that it represents an internal feature of Roundhouse 1, especially as all remains are confined within the limits of that roundhouse.
- 9.2.5 In Area 2, Gully 004 suggests the presence of another roundhouse (Roundhouse 3). Although only a relatively short segment was recorded in plan, ephemeral suggestions of a continuation of this feature into a more circular arrangement was noted during the initial topsoil strip. Postholes 006 and 008 lie just within the projected line and may represent part of an entranceway structure.
- 9.2.6 In Area 3, curvilinear gully 162 appears to represent part of another roundhouse (Roundhouse 4), c.11m in diameter. The eastern limits are possibly also indicated by the termination of feature 190. Posthole 174 lies on this line, and may be part of an

east to northeast facing entranceway. As such it would have a similar orientation to the entranceways suggested for Roundhouses 1 and 3. Possible internal structures are suggested by the square arrangement of postholes 164 to 167, and the linear arrangement of postholes 170 to 172. Deposit 163 would also appear to represent an internal deposit, as it respects the line of Gully 162.

- 9.2.7 Gullies E903, 189 and 161 may also be fragmentary remains of two further roundhouses. However, if they are, only inconclusive partial remains exist and they clearly belong to a different phase to Roundhouse 4 (as well as each other). Gully 189 and 161 may form part of a roundhouse (Roundhouse 5) c.11m in diameter, although both gullies may also respect Gullies 162 and 190, associated with Roundhouse 4. Gully E903, which truncates, and is therefore later than, Gully 190 may form part of a heavily truncated roundhouse (Roundhouse 6) c.12m in diameter, although this appears to be a drainage feature with no obvious internal structural remains.
- 9.2.8 There appears, therefore, to be remains of six roundhouses on the site. Three of these (Roundhouses 1, 3 and 4) are more definite, while the evidence for the others (Roundhouses 2, 5 and 6), which appear to represent a separate phase or phases of activity, is more speculative.

### 9.3 Raised granary

- 9.3.1 Area 4 comprises numerous postholes that appear to define an area c.5.5m<sup>2</sup>. The size is relatively typical for a raised granary, a post-built structure sometimes found on Iron Age settlement sites. Typically, these granaries would be simpler 4-post structures, although the use of more post-holes is not unknown. The relatively large number of postholes here would be very unusual for such a structure, although intrusive archaeology and environmental sampling would be required to establish the nature of the postholes and structure here.

### 9.4 Enclosure and Field System

- 9.4.1 A clear sub-square enclosure is evident in plan in the northeast corner of the site, represented by Ditch 210, with a second internal ditch suggested by Ditch 211. This enclosure, which measures roughly 324m<sup>2</sup>, appears to be associated with a series of enclosure ditches around the northern edge of the site (Ditches 213, 216 & 248), in that these ditches appear to form an entrance into the northern side of the enclosure. The width and arrangement of these ditches do not appear significantly defensive, they would instead appear to represent field enclosures, with the main sub-square enclosure presumably used as an animal enclosure on the edge of the settlement.
- 9.4.2 There was a clear absence of further archaeological remains (with the exception of possible Posthole 217) within these field enclosures, further suggesting they marked the transition from the settlement area to the south to the field enclosures to the north. An assessment of charred plant remains from three ditch fills suggest arable cultivation at the site.
- 9.4.3 Within the sub-square enclosure there is, however, a large number of possible postholes. These do not appear to form coherent structural remains, and there is an

obvious lack of any potential roundhouse structure. It is suggested instead that these postholes represent more temporary post or fence remains associated with the stockading of animals.

#### 9.5 Other features and geophysical survey results (see also Figure 9)

- 9.5.1 Within Area 2 are a number of linear features that appear to have been truncated by Roundhouse 3. These linear features appear to represent fence-lines, although their function in this location is unclear.
- 9.5.2 To the east and southeast are a number of features that are less obvious to define. Against the eastern edge of the sub-square enclosure was an apparent laid-stone flag surface (deposit 243). It would appear to respect the enclosure, which would suggest the features are contemporary, although whether it represents an external or internal surface is unclear.
- 9.5.3 Further south a large, somewhat amorphous, deposit was revealed (deposit 195). The geophysical survey results would appear to suggest this deposit corresponds to two main discrete areas of activity, and may be associated with two ditches identified during the evaluation stage. The northern ditch [Ditch E2603] was a wide relatively shallow ditch. The geophysical survey results would suggest the ditch continued for c.20m with a northward curve, potentially terminating underneath deposit 195. Appearing to mirror its alignment, and set 0.6m to the south, was a narrower ditch [Ditch E2605] with a distinctive profile of a steep northern edge, and stepped southern edge, also potentially terminating underneath deposit 195. No dateable material was recovered.
- 9.5.4 A further 1.17m to the south a ditch terminus was identified during the evaluation [Ditch E2607]. The geophysical survey results would suggest the feature continued westward, and may even align with and potentially represent the terminus of Gully 194, although the stripped area suggested Gully 194 turned southwards, and no eastward continuation towards Ditch E2607 was identified.
- 9.5.5 The southern turn of Gully 194 may however potentially correspond to Ditch E2609 as identified within the evaluation, although it would appear somewhat wider within the evaluation trench.
- 9.5.6 Although this series of ditches at the eastern edge of the site remain somewhat enigmatic, it is possible they represent some form of formal entranceway to the settlement site. No further enclosure, defensive or otherwise, around the settlement site is clearly identifiable either within the stripped area or on the geophysical survey results. As ditch and gully features identified on the geophysical survey have been confirmed in the stripped area it is reasonable to assume that any defensive enclosure around the site should be readily visible on the geophysical survey. It may be of note however that the northern edge of the field, and the sunken farm track beyond, follow a slight curvilinear to the north of the settlement site which may hint at a large outer enclosure ditch on this northern side, although no continuation of such a feature is visible on the geophysical survey results.

## 9.6 Dating

- 9.6.1 The arrangement of probable roundhouses and a potential raised granary is characteristic of an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement site. Such a date is also suggested by the finds recovered from the site. Pottery recovered from excavated features was, with one obvious exception, dateable to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, which would fit with a Romano-British date. Charred seed remains recovered from ditch fills would also suggest a typical Iron Age or Romano-British date to activity on the site. There appears to be some potential intercutting of features at the site to suggest two or more phases of settlement activity. A precise understanding of phasing cannot be established without further archaeological investigation, although the form of the settlement site as a whole would suggest a possible late Iron Age date for its establishment (very few ceramic finds are ever recovered from Iron Age sites in the area). The finds do not suggest the site continued in use beyond the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
- 9.6.2 The one obvious exception is the recovery of several fragments of medieval pottery from the site. This pottery was recovered from two deposits, one being the topsoil and therefore clearly out of context, and one from Pit 125 within Area 1. The form of the site does not fit with any known medieval sites from the area, and it would appear Pit 125 may be a chance intrusive feature.

## 9.7 Regional context

- 9.7.1 Small Iron Age settlements are a common feature of the local landscape. Within c.4km of the site the regional Historic Environment Record records 26 known and possible such sites. However, without exception they are defended by noticeable banks and ditches. These sites are largely identifiable as cropmarks and have not been investigated archaeologically, instead they are largely dated on typological grounds. Undefended sites, as this one appears to be, are less visible as cropmarks, and therefore it is likely many such sites have gone unrecorded in the archaeological record, which makes this site particularly important.
- 9.7.2 Only two of these Iron Age defended enclosures have been investigated archaeologically within the local area. Recently an Iron Age defended enclosure was investigated 2km to the east near Fenton Farm (Poucher 2014). This site produced evidence of a defensive ditch, outer enclosure and internal features including an occupation hollow and possible kiln structure. Evidence of agri-industrial activity was revealed but no finds were recovered. 3.5km to the ENE of this Shoals Hook site lies Merryborough Camp (PRN 3554). Small-scale excavation in 1963 revealed evidence of the defensive ditch and bank and some slight internal features. The only find from the site was a fragment of Samian pottery, which has potential parallels with the Samian ware recovered from this site.
- 9.7.3 Romano-British sites are scarce in the area, although important work is currently being undertaken at Wiston to the east that is shedding new light on the Romano-British period in this area of Wales. A Roman fort has been recorded, and more recently a civilian settlement (Meek & Wilson 2013 and J.Meek, pers.com.). Pottery finds from the site, and historical analysis, indicate the fort was probably erected in AD74, during the Roman invasion of the area. Occupation appears to have continued at the fort

until around the turn of the century before there appears to be a clear break in occupation until the mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century. At this point the fort appears to have been partially re-occupied, although possibly not as a military establishment, and a civilian settlement is laid out to the south of the fort. Pottery would suggest this civilian settlement faded out in the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The earlier pottery finds associated with the fort appear largely to be imported European wares (including some South Gaulish samian ware), with the later pottery associated with the civilian settlement appearing more local (British) in origin. The relative proximity of a major fort and settlement site and spread of similar pottery between the two would suggest some links between these sites, possibly trading with each other in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. The finds recovered from this Shoals Hook site could potentially span both the identified periods of occupation at Wiston. It may be of note that Samian ware with a South Gaulish origins was recovered both from Shoals Hook and the initially fort occupation at Wiston. However, imported Samian ware was also recovered from the later settlement phase at Wiston, and generally the Shoals Hook finds are British in origin, similar to the finds from the later settlement phase at Wiston.

- 9.7.4 This site is of a form that may be typical of a more traditional, Iron Age, settlement site, although one that continued in occupation after the Roman conquest of this area. A Roman presence in this area had long been assumed to be minimal at best, however the Roman-period pottery from both this and Merryborough to the east may indicate a greater degree of interaction with Roman administration, particularly given the new findings emerging from Wiston. This site clearly has the potential to add to our knowledge and understanding of an important but often overlooked part of Pembrokeshire's history.

## 10 Preservation Methodology

- 10.1 It was agreed during the course of the work, in discussions between the client, AW and DAT-PS that this area of archaeological activity identified during the 'Strip, map and sample' would be excluded from the development and therefore be preserved *in situ*. Therefore no further intrusive archaeological investigations were carried out after this decision had been made. The features were cleaned and recorded in plan, surveyed and tied into the Ordnance Survey national grid and the development plans. A detailed plan of an exclusion zone was provided by the client, and deemed satisfactory by DAT-PS in an email dated 12-02-15 (see Figure 10).
- 10.2 The area was backfilled over the course of several days between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015. A layer of Terram, a synthetic geotextile layer, was laid down across the archaeological remains and then the area was backfilled using the original topsoil deposits. Backfilling was undertaken by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, using a toothless grading bucket and avoiding stripped areas (see Photos 25 - 28). The supervising archaeologist was Jerry Bond, who had also been part of the excavation team. The site was then reseeded to discourage the growth of any large rooting plants in this location.
- 10.3 Upon completion of the backfilling the area was demarcated using temporary bunting and road pins around the area agreed and illustrated in Figure 10. Permanent fencing will be installed around the perimeter to clearly demarcate the area of archaeological interest. Discussions are currently ongoing with the site developer regarding the final permanent fencing details, these details will be provided to DAT-PS in due course. A permit to work scheme has also been put in place during the course of the development works to limit the number of personnel in the area and allow control over areas walked and tracked.
- 10.4 Ground intrusive works associated with the development in areas surrounding the demarcated archaeological remains consist only of the piling of preformed C section piles (see photos 29 & 30). These piles measure 100mm x 50m, driven into the ground to depths of 1500mm. It is anticipated that the small cross-sectional area of the piles will cause minimal soil disturbance. The piling rig used for installation is a compact lightweight rig on tracks, which again should have a minimal impact on underlying deposits. Where possible the rig will be located away from the archaeological remains, outside the demarcated area. Where this is not possible temporary mats will be used under the piling rig to further reduce any possible ground disturbance.
- 10.5 Subsequent to the piling no further mechanical plant will be required to cross close to the archaeological remains. Access to the area will be limited for non-intrusive maintenance purposes and to trim vegetation.

## 11 Bibliography

- Houliston, M & Keen, H 2014 *Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest Geophysical Survey* Archaeology Wales Report No.1286
- Meek, J & Wilson, H 2013 *Archaeological Investigations at Wiston Roman Fort, Pembrokeshire: Interim Report* DAT Rep.No. 2013/70
- Meek, J 2014 *Proposed Solar Farm on Land North of Haverfordwest Golf Club, Pembrokeshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment* DAT Archaeological Services Rep. No. 2014/5
- Murphy, K, Ramsey, R, Poucher, P & Page, M 2007 *A Survey of Defended Enclosures in Pembrokeshire* Cambria Archaeology Report for Cadw
- Poucher, P 2014 *Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest: Archaeological Evaluation* Archaeology Wales Rep. No. 1219
- Poucher, P 2015 *Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest: Archaeological Evaluation* Archaeology Wales Rep. No. 1299

### **Maps**

- British Geological Survey 2008 *The Rocks of Wales* 1;250,000
- Ordnance Survey 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition map Pembrokeshire 1;2500
- Ordnance Survey 1902 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map Pembrokeshire 1;2500

### **Databases**

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER)
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales National Monuments Record (NMR)



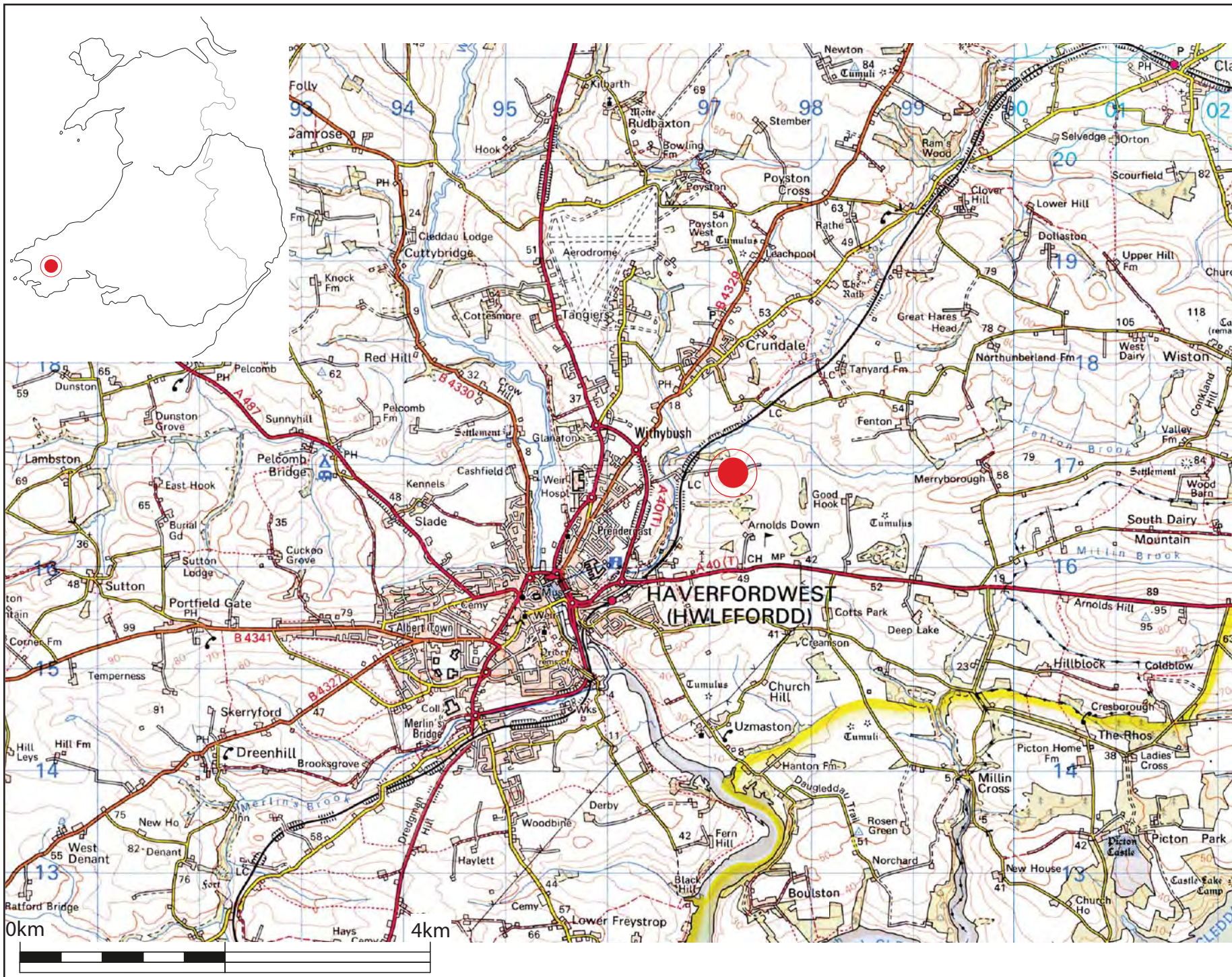


Figure 1: Location of site, based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map.

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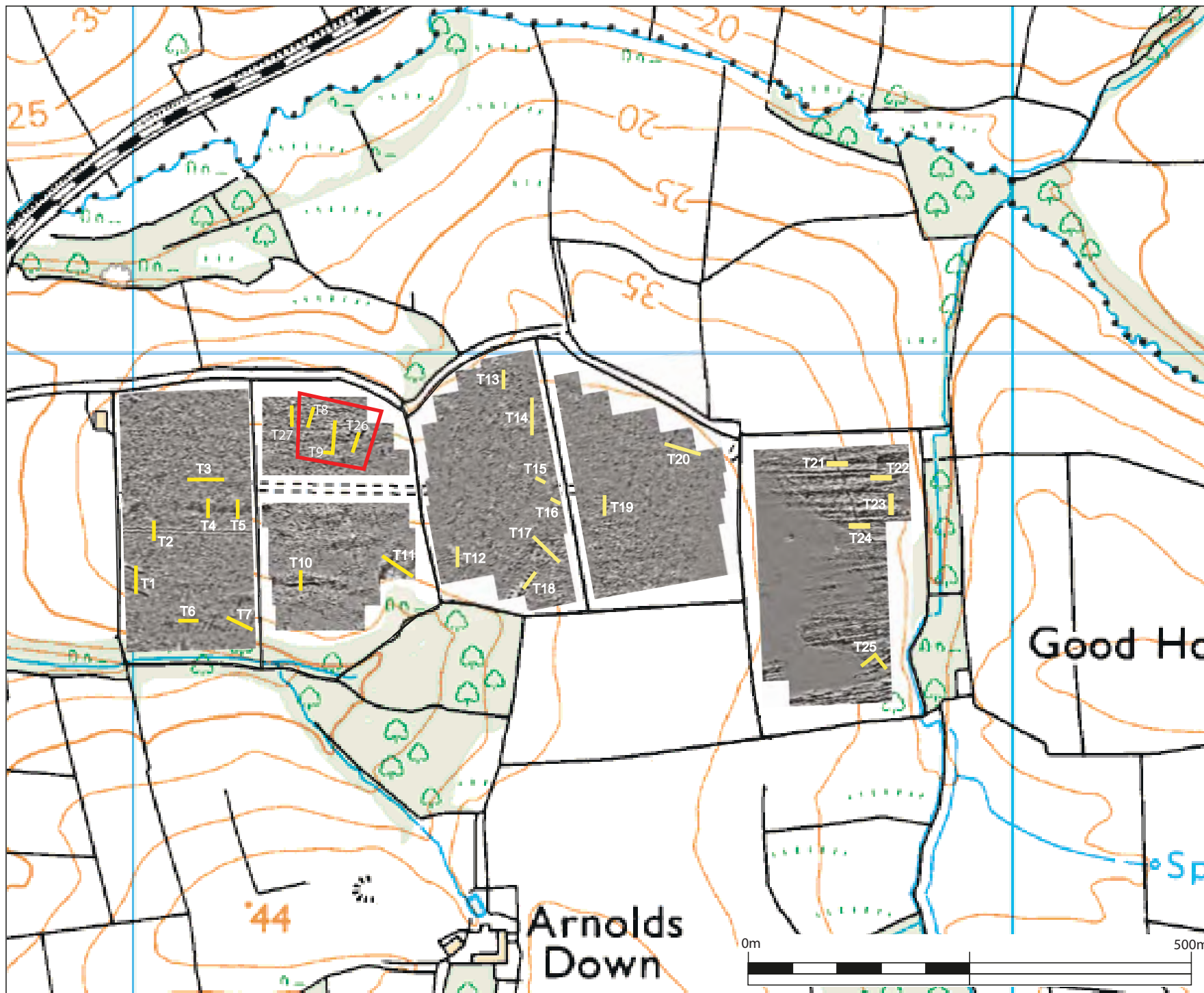


Figure 2: Location map of stripped area (red) overlaid on a location map of the evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results.

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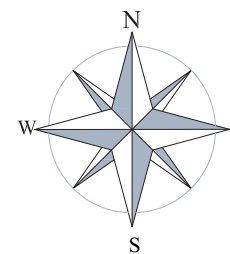
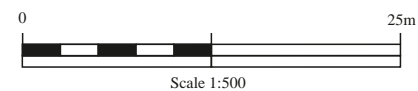
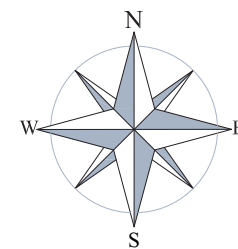
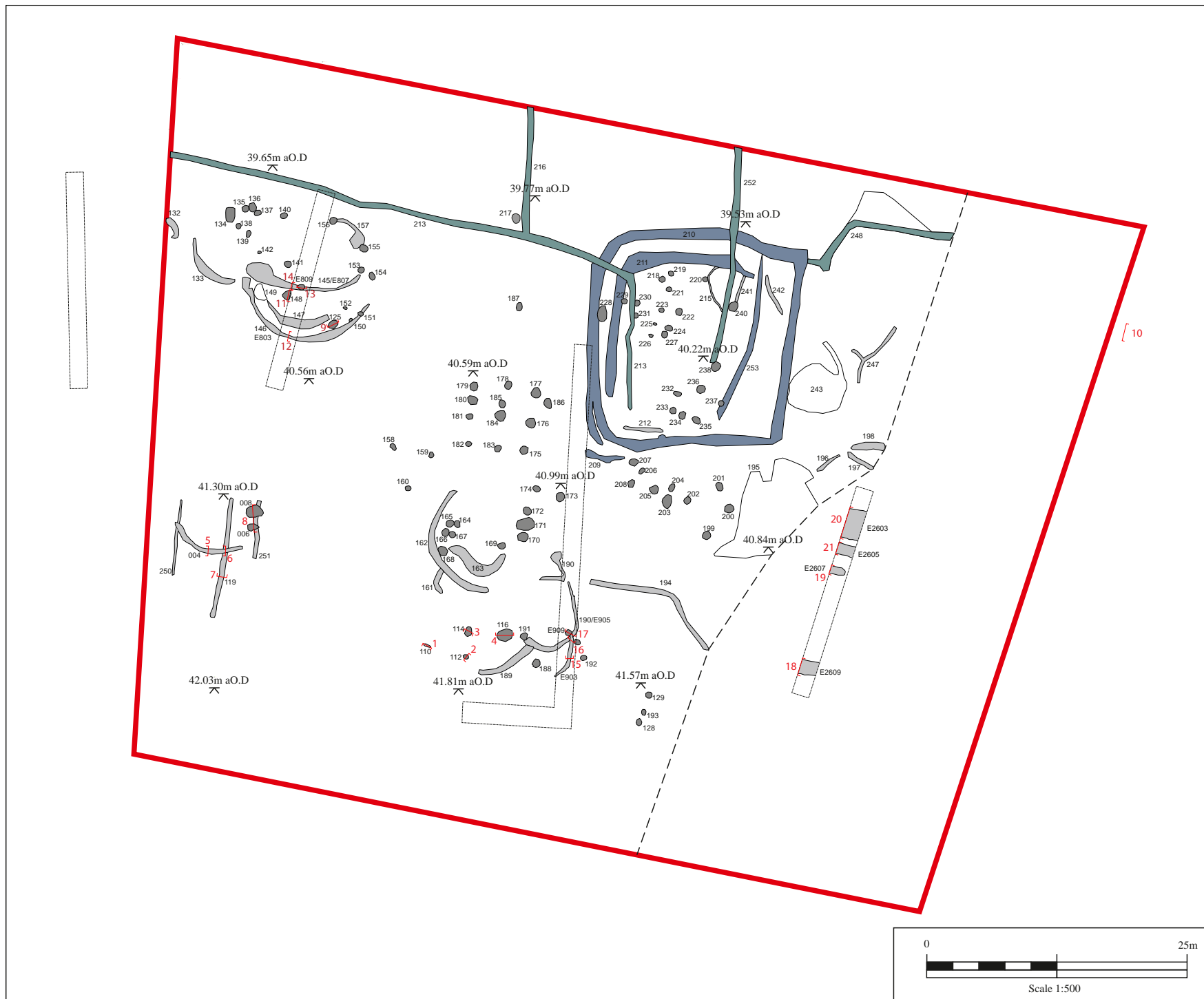


Figure 3: Extent of Areas 1 - 6 mentioned in the main text.





[ 10 Section

Evaluation  
Trench

Field  
System

Gully/Ditch  
Feature

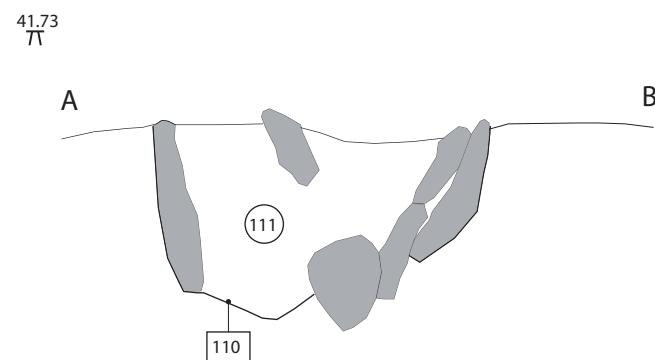
Post Pits

Enclosure

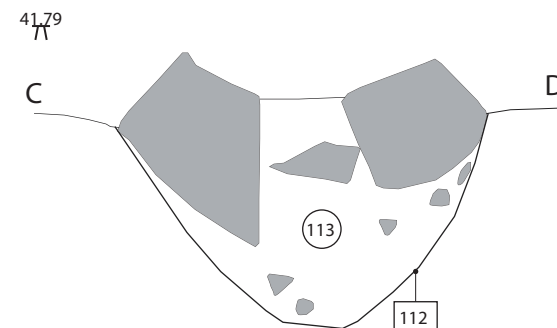
Figure 3: Recorded archaeological features within the stripped area, identified by context number.



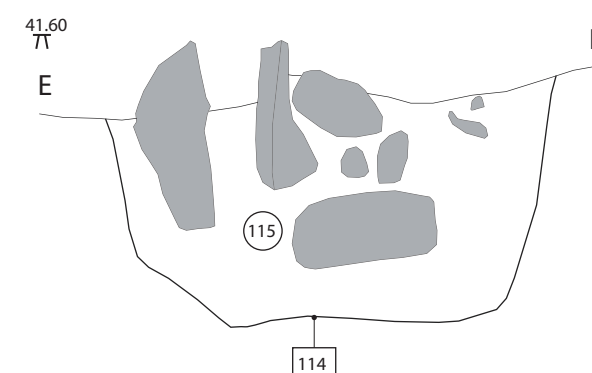
1. North facing section of Post hole [110]



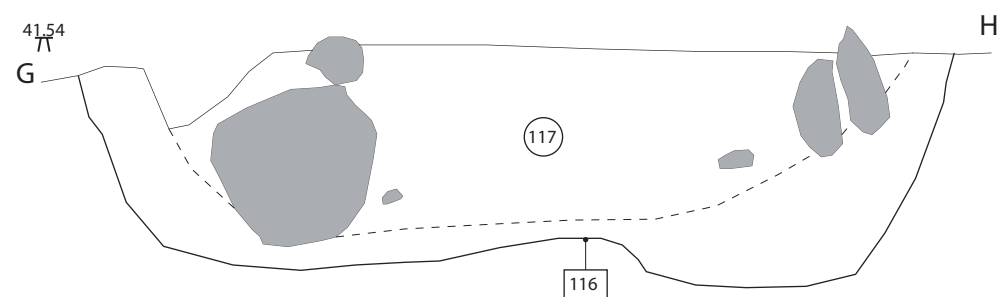
2. South-east facing section of Post hole [112]



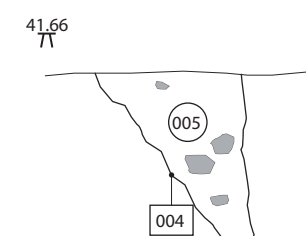
3. South-west facing section of Post hole [114]



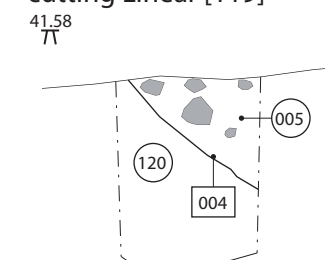
4. North facing section of Pit/Post hole [116]



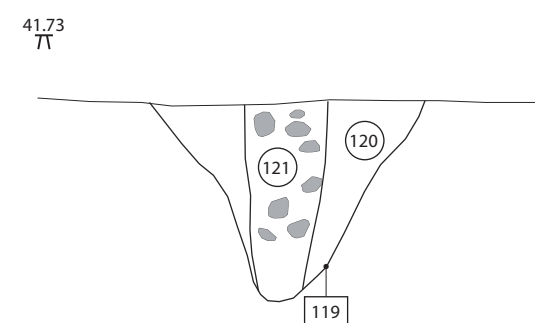
5. West facing section of Gully [004]



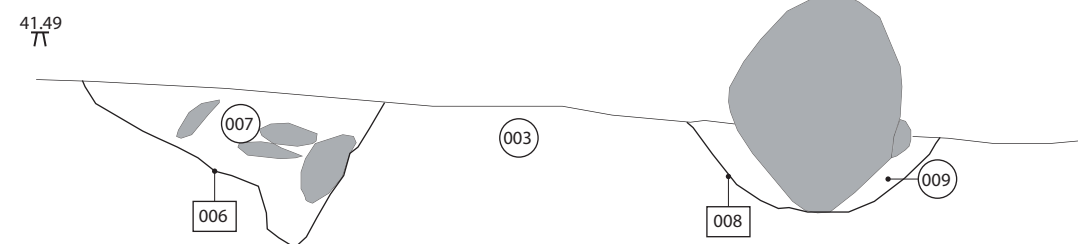
6. West facing section showing Gully [004] cutting Linear [119]



7. North facing section of Linear [119]



8. North-east facing section of Post holes [006] & [008]



**Job Title:** Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest

**Drawing Title:** Sections 1 to 8

**Date:** February 2015

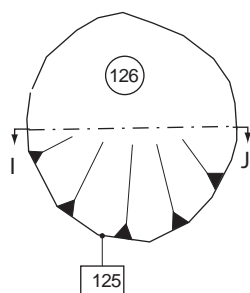
**Drawn By:** ILB

**Scale:** Section 1-7 1 : 10 and  
section 8 1 : 20 @ A3

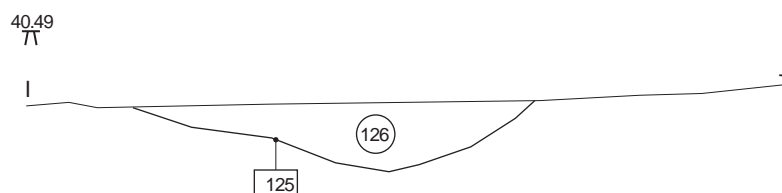
**Figure 5**



Post-ex plan of  
Pit [125]



9. North-west facing section of Pit [125]



10. West facing section of Ditch [130]

40.70  
T

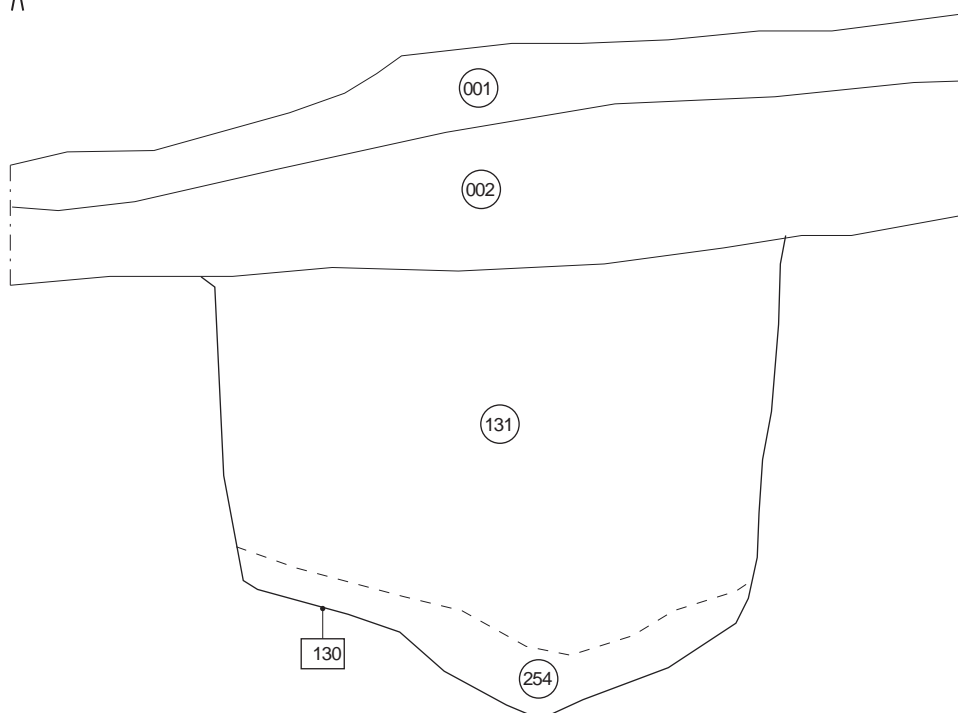
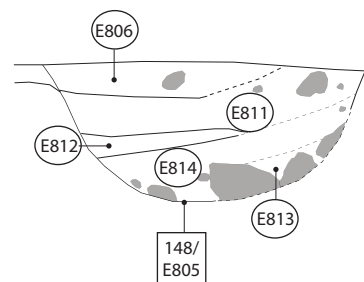


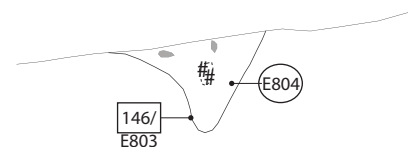
Figure 6 Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest  
Plan and sections 9 & 10

Scale Plan 1 : 20 & sections 1: 10 @ A4

40.58 11. East facing section of pit/posthole 148/E805



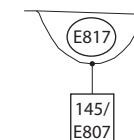
40.34 12. West facing section of Gully 146/E803



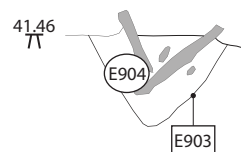
13. North facing section of Posthole E809



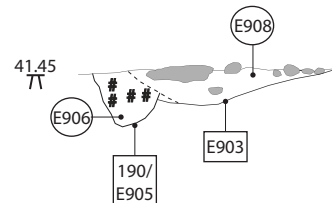
40.58 14. West facing section of Gully 145/E807



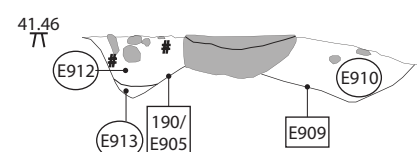
15. Northeast facing section of Gully E903



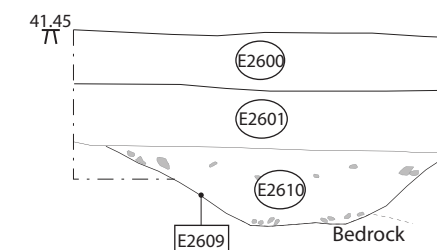
16. Northeast facing sections of Gullies 190/E905 & E903



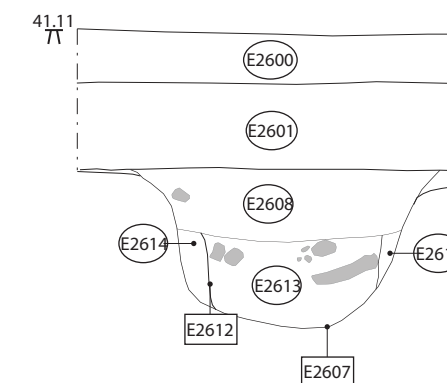
17. Northeast facing sections of Gully 190/E905 & Posthole E909



18. East facing section of Ditch E2609



19. East facing section of Ditch E2607

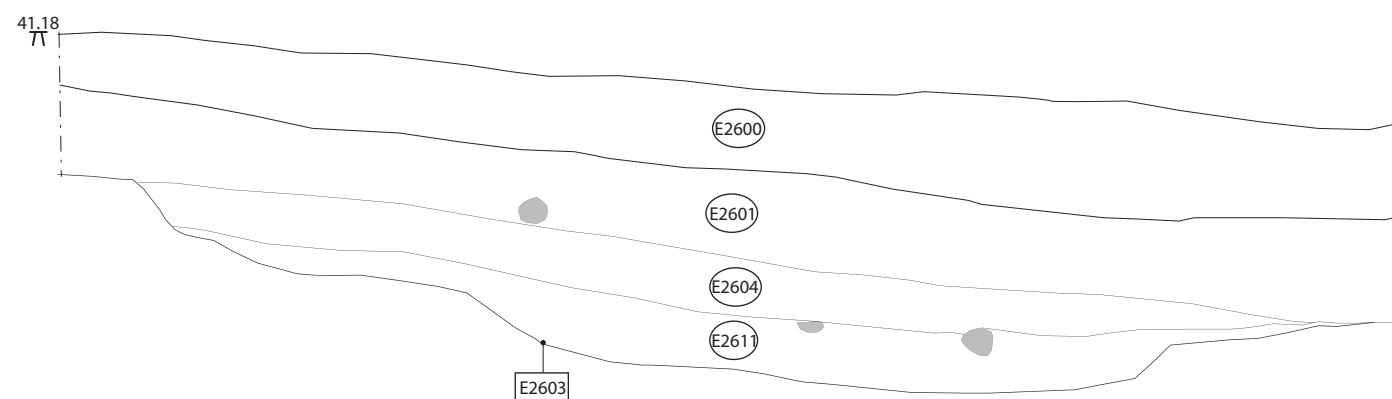


#### Key

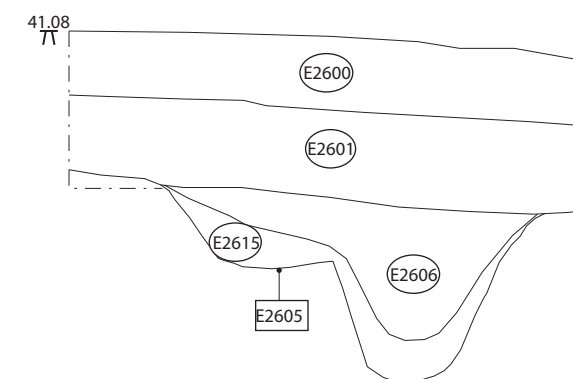
- Stone
- Charcoal



20. East facing section of Ditch E2603



21. East facing section of Ditch E2605



**Job Title:** Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest

**Drawing Title:** Sections 11 to 21

**Date:** February 2015

**Drawn By:** ILB & PP

**Scale:** 1:20 @ A4

**Figure 7**

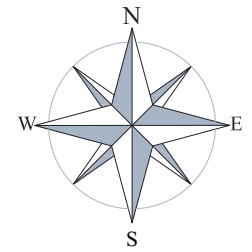
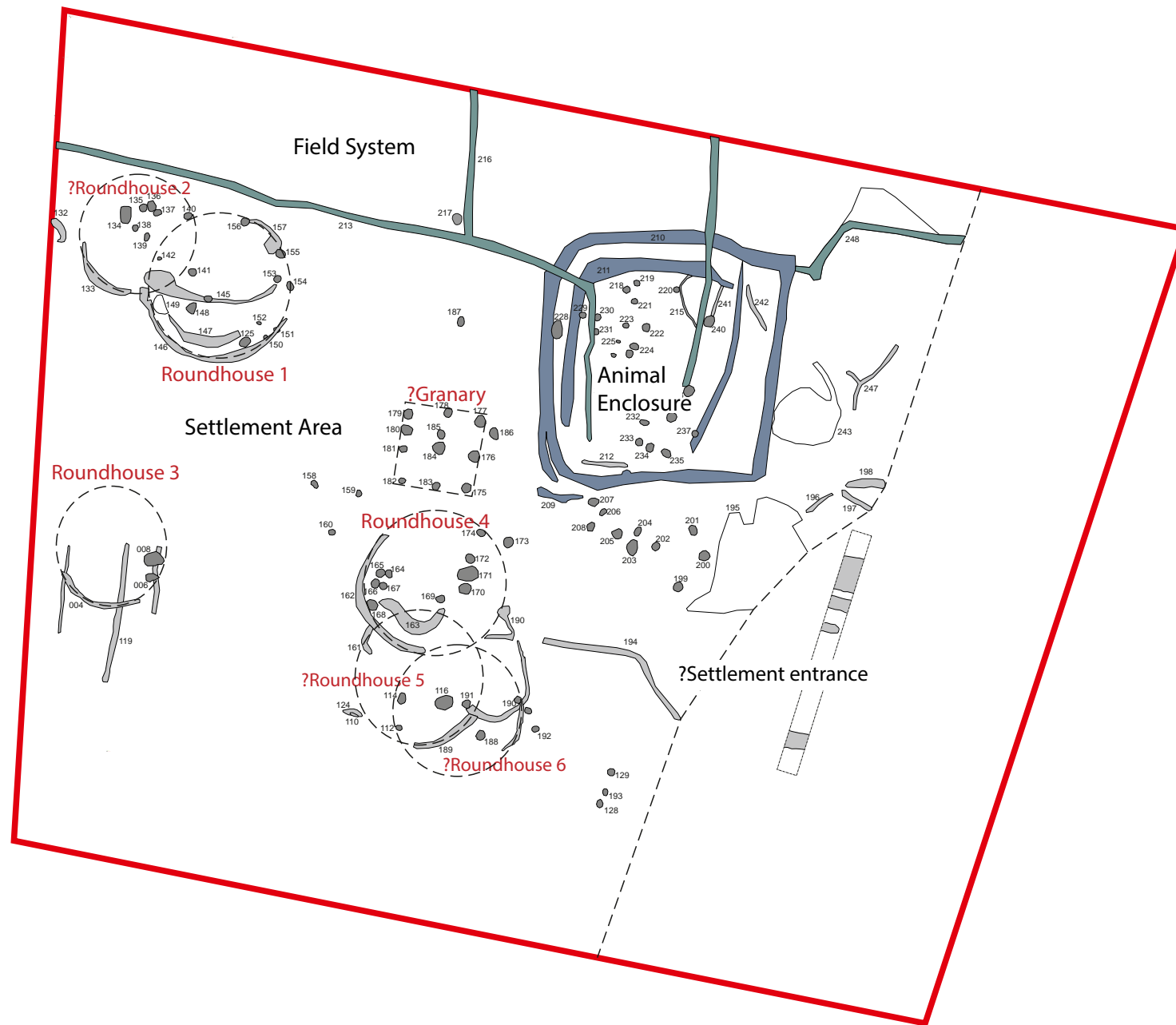
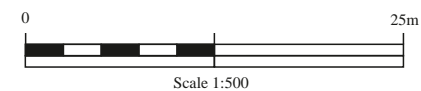


Figure 7: Suggested interpretation of archaeological remains



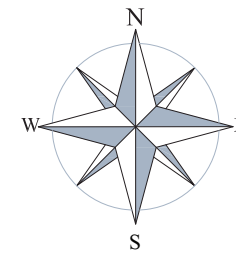
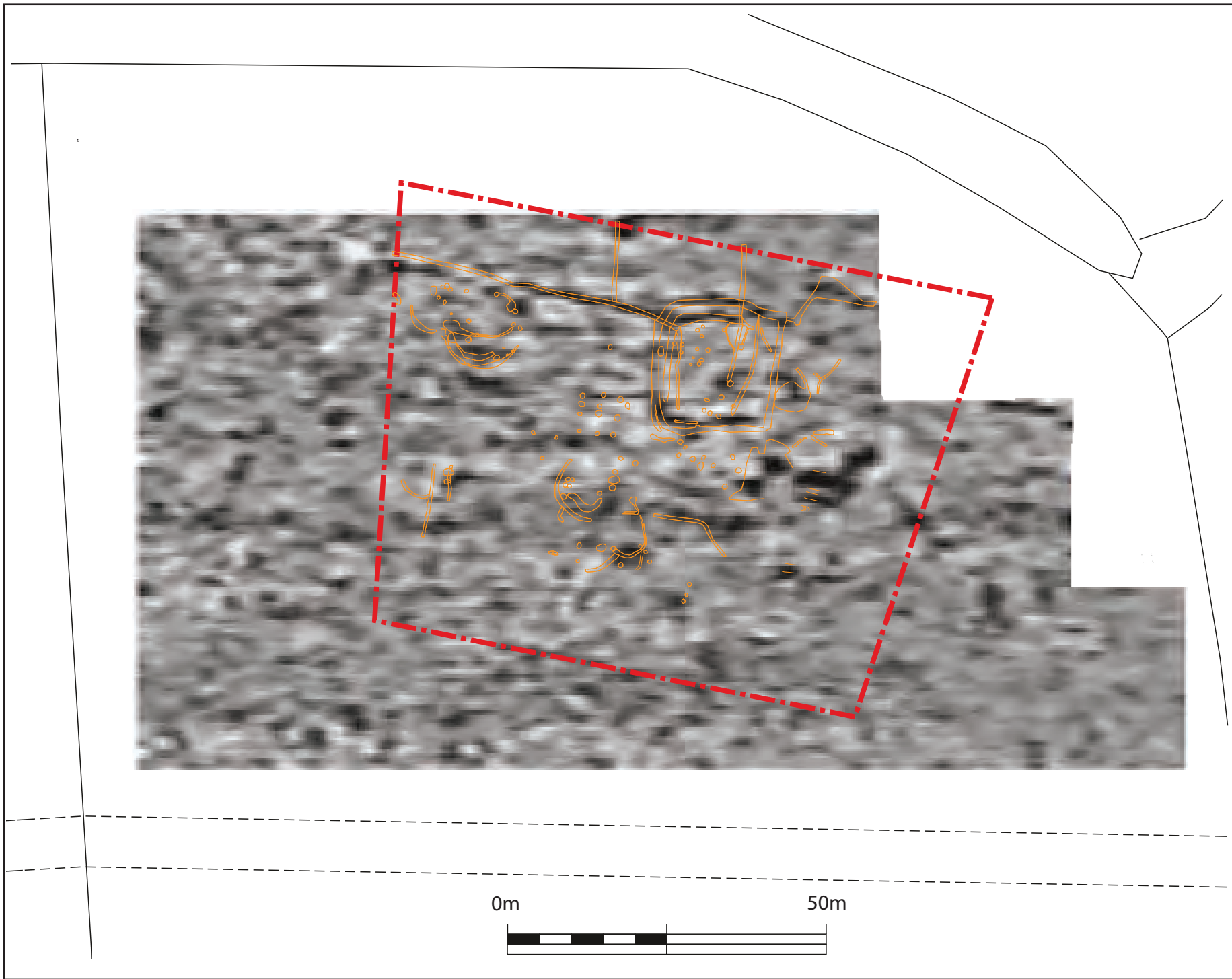


Figure 9: Results of the strip, map & sample overlaid on the geophysical survey results.



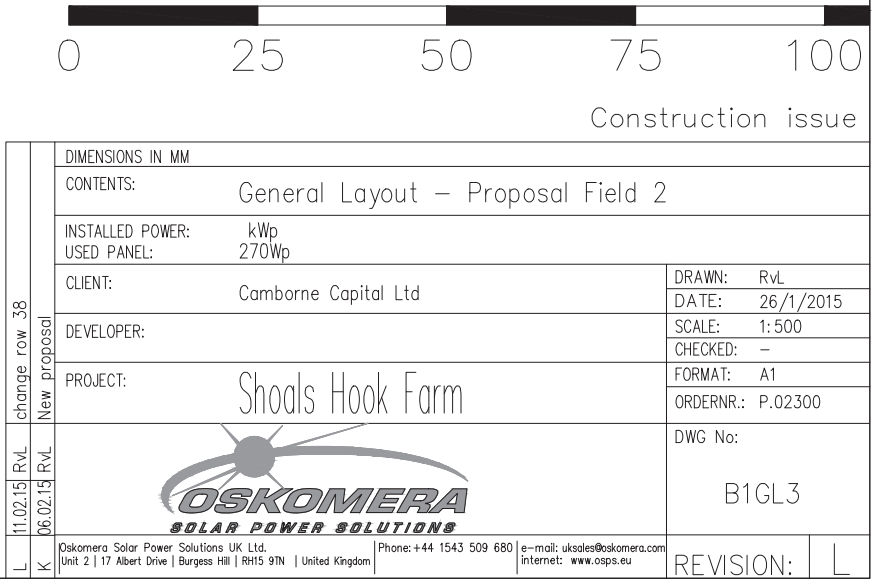
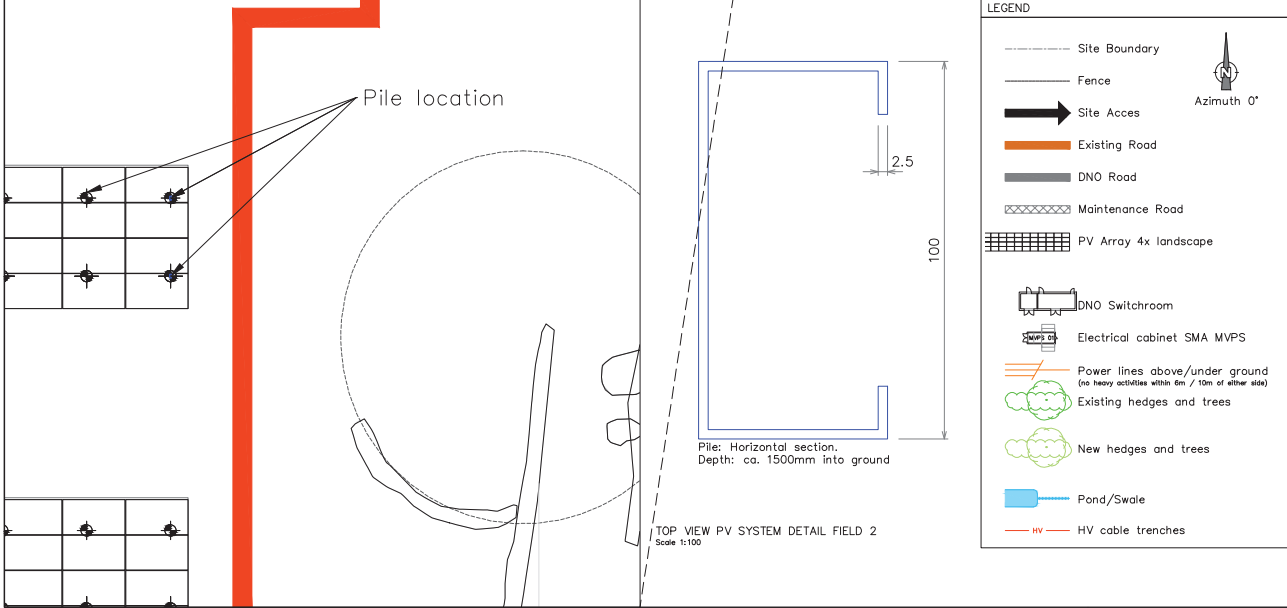
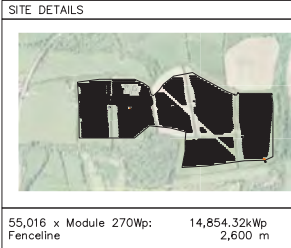
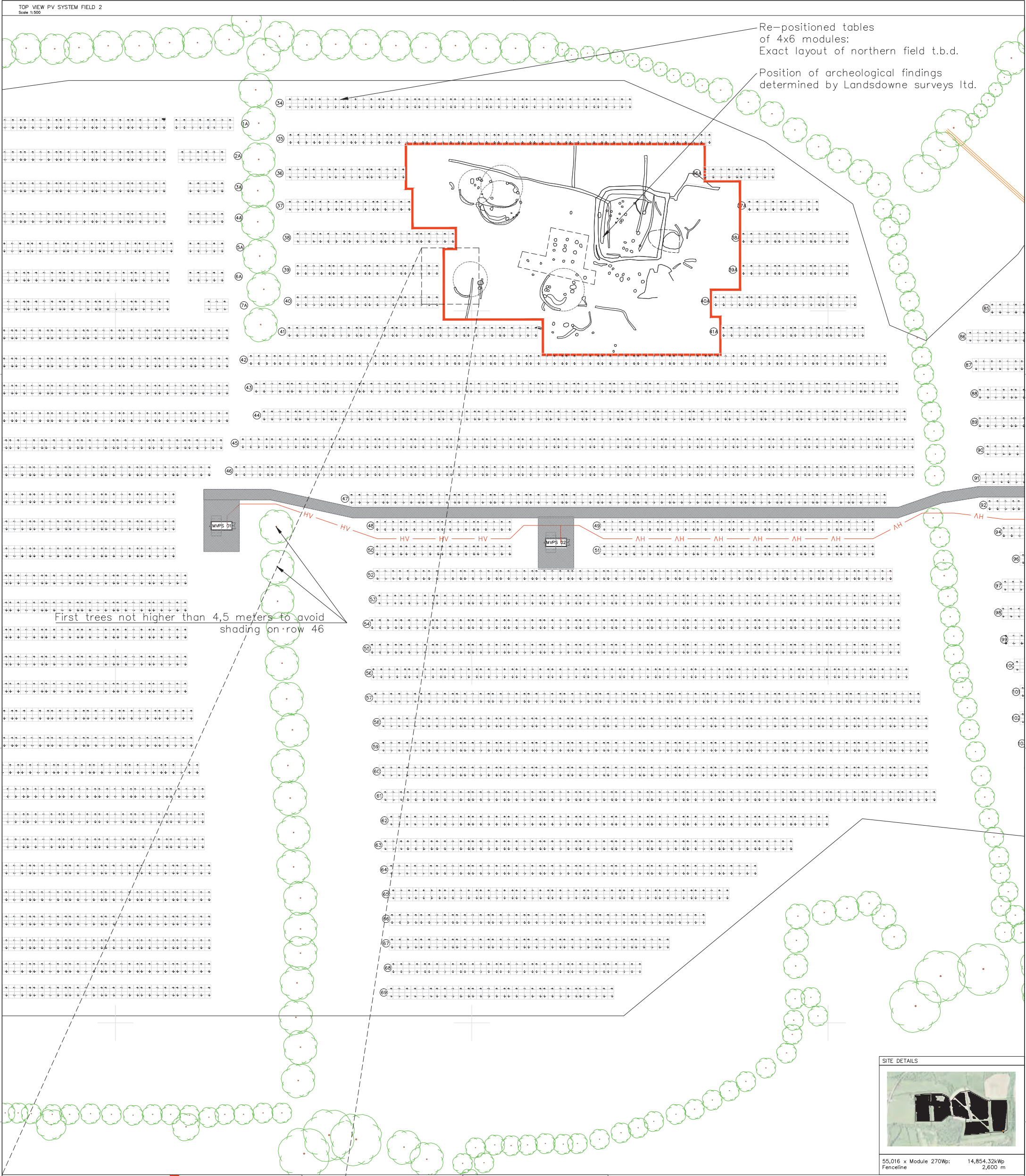






Photo 1: General shot across site looking ENE.



Photo 2: General shot across site looking NE.





Photo 3: Area 1, Roundhouse 1. Looking NE across gullies 146 and 147, outlines in red marker paint. 1m scale.



Photo 4: Area 1, section through Gully 145/E807. West facing shot, 1m scale.





Photo 5: Area 1, Pit 125. Medieval pottery finds recovered from Pit 125. SW facing shot, 0.2m scale.



Photo 6: Area 1, Pit 125. Section through pit, NW facing shot, 0.3m scale.





Photo 7: Area 2, Roundhouse 3. NW facing shot across gully 004 (blue arrow, runs left to right) and linear 119 (orange arrow, runs top right to bottom left). 1m scales.



Photo 8: Area 2, Gully 004. Section through the gully, NW facing shot. 0.2m scale.





Photo 9: Area 2, Roundhouse 3. ESE facing shot of postholes 006 & 008 (blue arrows) and interior of Roundhouse 3. 1m scale.



Photo 10: Area 2. Half-sectioned postholes 006 (left) and 008 (right). West facing shot, 2m scale.





Photo 11: Area 2. Section through linear 119. NNE facing shot, 0.3m scale.



Photo 12: Area 3. South facing shot of intersection of Gully 190/E905 (blue arrow, runs top right to bottom left) and Gully E903 (orange arrow, runs top centre to bottom centre). 1m scales.





Photo 13: Area 3. Pre-excavation shot of Gully E903. North facing, 1m & 0.5m scales.



Photo 14: Area 3. South facing shot of half-sectioned Pit/Posthole 116. 1m scale.





Photo 15: Area 3. North facing shot of half-sectioned Posthole 112. 0.3m scale.



Photo 16: Area 3. NE facing shot of half-sectioned Posthole 114. 0.3m scale.





Photo 17: Area 4. SSW facing shot of possible raised granary site, postholes marked out with red marker paint. 1m scale.



Photo 18: Area 4. SW facing shot of possible raised granary site, postholes marked out with red marker paint. 1m scale.





Photo 19: Area 5. East facing shot across the southern end of the sub-square enclosure, ditch 210 is marked in the foreground. 1m scale.



Photo 20: Area 5. Ditch 130, section revealed in machine-excavated trench to the east of the stripped area, believed to be a continuation of ditch 248. West facing shot.





Photo 21: Area 6. West facing shot across the partially revealed paved surface 243 (arrow) on the east side of the sub-square enclosure. 1m scale.



Photo 22: Section through Ditch E2603, investigated during the evaluation stage. WNW facing shot, 2m & 1m scales.





Photo 23: Section through Ditch E2605, investigated during the evaluation stage. WNW facing shot, 1m scales.



Photo 24: Ditch terminus E2607, post-excavation. Investigated during the evaluation stage. WNW facing shot, 1m scale.





Photo 25: Backfilling of archaeological area in progress.



Photo 26: Backfilling of archaeological area in progress.



Photo 27: Backfilling of archaeological area in progress.



Photo 28: Site after backfilling was completed. The vehicle track marks in the foreground are outside the excavated site area.





Photo 29: A preformed C section pile, of the type used in the areas adjacent to the area of archaeological significance.



Photo 30: A preformed C section pile, of the type used in the areas adjacent to the area of archaeological significance.



# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX I: Pottery Report Rob Perrin**

## POTTERY FROM EXCAVATIONS AT SHOALS HOOK FARM, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE IN 2015

**Rob Perrin**

A small assemblage of pottery (Table 1) comprising 64 sherds weighing almost 0.8 of a kilo and with a rim vessel equivalent (EVE) of just under 0.5 was recovered from eight contexts. The pottery is in reasonable condition, though the surface of some sherds is abraded.

Fabric	NoSh	Wgt	Rim %	Context No.
Greyish brown, coarse	1	12		162
Greyish brown, coarse, buff surface	2	35	8	004
Greyish brown, flint, quartz	1	4		138
Brown, reddish yellow, coarse, large quartz	53	615		125/126 & 001
Reddish yellow	6	122	26	146
Samian ware	1	7	7	163
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>41</b>	

The assemblage is of considerable interest, despite its small size. It includes two or three bead and flange-type mortaria (some sherds may be from the same vessel), a samian ware dish and another vessel, probably a jar, in a very coarse, quartz-tempered fabric. One (or two) of the mortaria are in a reddish yellow fabric with traces of a red slip and white quartz trituration grits. This (or these) were almost certainly produced in the kilns in the vicinity of Caerleon (cf Hartley 2004, 100-1; Tomber and Dore 1998, 204). The other mortarium is in a coarse greyish brown fabric with a buff external surface. This vessel has been burnt, so it may originally have been of one colour. It has translucent pink quartz trituration grits, so is not from the Caerleon kilns. Similar trituration grits were used in the Oxfordshire kilns, but its source is uncertain. The samian ware dish is probably from a Dragendorff form 18/31; the fabric appears to be South Gaulish. The coarse, greyish brown sherd may be South Wales reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 209). The coarse brown to reddish yellow ware has abundant large quartz inclusions giving a very rough surface. The source of this ware is uncertain, as is its date as it may be Iron Age, Roman or medieval. The other pottery would fit a late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date.

The Roman pottery suggests activity or occupation of more than basic, utilitarian character. A rivet hole in the samian ware dish suggests that the vessel was prized and, possibly, that samian ware was not readily available to the inhabitants.

### References

Hartley, K F 2004: 'The Mortaria', 100-06, in P V Webster, K F Hartley, A G Marvell and S H Sell, 'A Roman Pottery Kiln at Abernant Farm, Caerleon, Gwent'. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 11, 89-111.

Tomber, R and Dore, J 1998: *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. A Handbook*. Museum of London Archaeology Service.

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX II: Pottery Report Paul Blinkhorn**

## Pottery from Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (Site SHFH15)

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 56 sherds with a total weight of 775g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British and medieval wares.

### *Romano-British*

The Romano-British pottery was recorded utilising the conventions of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), as follows:

**BB1: Black-burnished Ware 1**, mid 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 4g.

**CLMO: Caerleon Oxidized Mortarium**, 2<sup>nd</sup> century. 3 sherds, 64g.

**WXMO: Wroxeter Mortarium**, 2<sup>nd</sup> century. 1 sherd, 38g.

The following was also noted:

**SWRW: South Wales Grey Ware**, late 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 11g.

The three sherds of CLMO from context [804] are all from the same vessel, and join. The single sherd of WXMO is very abraded, with few trituration grits remaining, and appears to be burnt.

### *Medieval*

The following medieval fabrics were present:

**DGTW: Dyfed Gravel-Tempered Wares**, ?late 12<sup>th</sup> - early 16<sup>th</sup> century Moderate, rounded to sub-rounded and ill-sorted quartz up to 0.5 mm, and abundant, flattened siltstone rock fragments up to 3mm. occur (O'Mahoney 1995, 9). 47 sherds, 616g.

**GDGW: Glazed Dyfed Gravel-tempered ware**, 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century (ibid. 10). Wheel-thrown. Similar to DGTW, with less dense and slightly finer inclusions. Dull olive-green glaze. 3 sherds, 42g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The sherds of Dyfed Gravel Tempered-type Ware from Context [125] and [126] are all from near the sagging-profile base of a single, large, coil-built vessel, probably a bowl. The fabric of this pot lacks the flattened siltstone rock fragments often found in such pottery. However, similar wares are found across Dyfed and multiple kiln sites are likely, with the large amount of variation in the fabric of such pottery having been noted in the past (O'Mahoney 1995, 8). .

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

	BB1		CLMO		SWGW		WXMO		DGTW		GDGW		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
162					1	11							RB
004							1	38					RB
125/126									40	538			L12thC
126									6	71			L12thC
138	1	4											RB
146/E804			3	64									RB
001/2600									1	7	3	42	U/S
Total	1	4	3	64	1	11	1	38	47	616	3	42	

## Bibliography

O'Mahoney, C 1995, *Pottery, Ridge Tile and Ceramic Water Pipe, Excavations at Carmarthen Greyfriars 1983-1990*. Topic Report 2. Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Tomber, R, and Dore, J, 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: A Handbook* Museum of London/English heritage/British Museum

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX III: Finds Register**

**Archaeology Wales Ltd.**  
Finds catalogue Shoals Hook Farm,  
Haverfordwest

**Site code: 2287 - SHFH/14/EV    Evaluation Stage**

	Context	Description	Amount	Weight in grams	Kept/Disc.
<b>Pottery</b>					
	804	Late 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> cent. Mortaria (Caerleon)	3	64	Kept
	900	Late post-medieval glazed earthenware	1	3	Disc
	904	?Iron Age/Romano-British, unidentifiable	3	5	
	2600	Post Med. Glazed earthenware	1	68	Kept
		Dyfed Gravel-Tempered Wares, ?Late 12 <sup>th</sup> – early 16 <sup>th</sup> cent.			
	2600		1	7	Kept
		Glazed Dyfed Gravel-tempered ware, 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> cent.			
	2600		3	42	Kept
<b>Stone</b>					
	804	Whetstone?	1	183	
	904	Burnt stone?	7	25	Kept
	906	Burnt stone?	7	106	Kept
	908	Burnt stone?	4	240	Kept
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
	900	Clay pipe stem fragments	3	6	Disc

**Site code: 2287 - SHFH/15/EX    Strip, Map & Sample stage**

<b>Pottery</b>					
	101	Post Med. Glazed earthenware	4	119	Kept
	101	Post Med. Glazed earthenware	5	108	Kept
		Dyfed Gravel-Tempered Wares, ?Late 12 <sup>th</sup> – early 16 <sup>th</sup> cent.			
	126/125		45	561	Kept
		Roman (possibly black-burnished ware Mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> cent.)			
	138		1	5	Kept
	163	Samian ware, late 1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> cent.	1	8	Kept
		Roman, ?Wroxeter Mortarium, late 1 <sup>st</sup> – end century			
	005/004		3	61	Kept
		Roman, South Wales Grey Ware, late 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> cent.			
	162		1	14	Kept
	001	Post Med. Earthenware	1	8	Kept
<b>Lithics</b>					
<b>Small find</b>					
6	001	Unworked flint fragment	1	6	Kept

**Stone**

Small find

2	126	?Hammer stone, rounded pebble	1	455	Kept
	001	Quern Stone fragment	1	17 KG	Kept

**Heat-  
affected  
clay**

007		4	127	Kept
009		10	638	Kept
121		3	59	Kept

**Miscellaneous**

001	Coal	1	1	Kept
009	Slag	3	31	Kept

**Total finds:**

<b>Pottery</b>	73	1073
<b>Lithics</b>	1	6
<b>Stone</b>	21	2709
<b>Burnt clay</b>	17	824
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	7	38

**Total: 119 4650**



# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX IV: Assessment of the charred plant remains**

## **SHOAL'S HOOK FARM, HAVERFORDWEST**

### **An assessment of the charred plant remains**

by Wendy J. Carruthers

30.3.15

#### **Introduction**

An evaluation was carried out by Archaeology Wales in January 2015 on the recommendation of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust as a condition of a planning application associated with the construction of a photovoltaic solar farm. Previous investigations had indicated that the site might contain a prehistoric or Romano-British settlement.

The following information outlines the findings (Phil Poucher, pers. com.);

*A series of curvilinear gullies, ditches, enclosures, postholes and pits were uncovered throughout the area. Three probable, and a further three possible, roundhouse remains were identified, along with a posthole structure interpreted as a possible raised granary. Numerous other postholes, pits, linear features and deposits of less certain function were also identified across the area. These features appear to indicate a settlement site, and were largely contained by a series of straight linear ditches to the north that are interpreted as field enclosure ditches. These ditches appeared to feed into a sub-square enclosure at the northeast corner of the site, interpreted as an animal enclosure. Pottery remains recovered from various features across the site (including a possible roundhouse) have largely been dated to the late 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, although the form of the settlement would appear to be Iron Age in character. This suggests a rural settlement site of Iron Age origin, which was occupied into the Romano-British period, but possibly abandoned by the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century.*

Environmental soil samples were taken from a range of features in order to recover information about the environment and economy of the site. Processing was undertaken by Irma Bernadus, Archaeology Wales, using bucket floatation, with the flots being poured off through a stack of 1mm and 500 micron meshed sieves. For the purpose of this evaluation 1 litre sub-samples were processed from three samples comprising three ditch fills as described below.

The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, which is largely of the Ashgill Rocks (Undifferentiated) formation, overlain by glacial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey information 2008) (Phil Poucher, pers.com.).

#### **Assessment methods**

Three flots and three residues from one litre sub-samples (taken from 7, 5 and 7 litre environmental samples respectively) were sent to the author for assessment. The samples came from;

- Sample 6, context 2611: the basal fill of a wide but shallow east-west ditch [2603] from the northern end of the trench. The soil consisted of moderately firm dark reddish-brown clayey-silt with abundant small angular stones and the occasional charcoal fleck. No datable evidence was recovered from the ditch.

- Sample 7, contexts 2614 and 2613: the fill of a straight-sided, flat-based ditch terminus [2607] under the western baulk of the trench. It was filled with a compact dark reddish-brown clayey silt (context 2614). A post-hole positioned centrally within the ditch terminus was filled with a dark-brown silty clay (context 2613). Sample 7 contains soil from both of these deposits. No dateable evidence was recovered from these features.
- Sample 8, context 2613 & 2614: The lowest fill of a narrower and deeper ditch east-west [2605]. The soil, a firm mid grey-brown clayey-silt with frequent inclusions of small stones and some gravels, was probably a natural accumulation. No dateable evidence was recovered from the ditch.

The dry flots and residues were scanned under an Olympus SZX7 stereoscopic microscope in order to determine whether the deposits have the potential to provide information about the environment and economy of the site. Because the flots were so small (each of the three flots was less than 5ml in volume) it was a more efficient use of time to completely sort and identify the few charred plant remains at the assessment stage, rather than have to return to the samples at a later date for their full analysis. The charred plant remains were extracted, identified and placed in labelled glass tubes for archiving.

Each of the residues was fully sorted in order to ensure that processing had been efficient. As each of the residues was found to be devoid of charred plant material the soil processing was judged to have been totally effective.

## Results

The results of the assessment and analysis of the three samples are presented in Table 1. Nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for the weeds/wild plants and Zohary and Hopf (2000) for the cereals.

## Discussion

In view of the fact that only one litre of soil from each sample had been processed, a surprisingly high number of charred plant remains was recovered. However, the remains consisted of very small fragments of chaff, weed seeds and nutshell suggesting that abrasion and/or crushing in the sandy, stony soils may have taken place. The items are too small on their own to be used for radiocarbon dating, though they could be dated en masse if this was considered suitable. However, the information recovered demonstrates that arable agriculture was taking place locally, as described below. It also indicates that there is good potential for larger items (i.e. whole grains or larger chaff fragments or hazelnut shell fragments) to be present in the remaining unprocessed soil.

The dominant items were small, poorly preserved chaff fragments of emmer/spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) including glume bases and spikelet forks. One of the better preserved fragments was indicative of emmer wheat (little sign of veining on the glume) but because only a short fragment was preserved it is left at an uncertain level of identification, *Triticum* cf. *dicoccum*. All three flots produced small amounts of emmer/spelt chaff remains. The high degree of fragmentation may be due to trampling and redeposition prior to burial, for example if the remains had been swept up from a floor, or it could be due to post-burial damage in the sandy, gravelly soils. It is also possible that a 'trickle-down' effect has taken place whereby the small

charred remains have been washed into the ditches and down through the gravely deposits over time. Further soil needs to be processed to help answer this question.

The small fragment of grain was too poor to determine which type of cereal it came from, consisting of just a fragment with traces of a hilum. It was recovered from sample 6, context 2611.

Two charred weed seeds were recovered from sample 7 (context 2613 & 2614); a heath grass caryopsis (*Danthonia decumbens*) and the embryo of a Chenopodiaceae seed (the family includes fat hen, orache). These provide a little information about the soils being cultivated, since both are likely to have become charred as contaminants of cereal crops. Heath grass grows on poor, sandy, acidic soils and today is found on heaths, moors and mountains. However, in the past it grew as an arable weed, particularly in the Iron Age and Roman periods in the north and south-west of the British Isles. It has been suggested that in less intensive arable systems and on less fertile soils heath grass could exist amongst more typical arable weeds because of its tolerance of poor growing conditions, whereas on better soils it was unlikely to have coped with the competition (van der Veen, 1992, 139). All of the soils in the Haverfordwest area are either slightly acidic and of low fertility or acidic and of low fertility (Cranford Soilscales website) so it is likely that the hulled wheat remains recovered from the samples had been grown locally. The Chenopodiaceae embryo suggests that some manuring may have been carried out in order to have made the poor soils suitable for arable cultivation, since most species in the family are indicators of nutrient-rich soils.

A single, very small fragment of charred hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) was recovered from sample 6, context 2611, providing evidence of wild foods that would have been available to the occupants of the site.

Comparative sites in the immediate area include Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, an Iron Age enclosure with occupation features, and Site 508 along the Milford Haven pipeline, LIA/ERB ditches. Both sites are unpublished (Carruthers assessment and Carruthers unpublished technical report). At Crundale spelt glume bases and emmer/spelt chaff were observed, as well as heath grass caryopses. This site has yet to be fully analysed. At Site 508 very little hulled wheat was recovered, and the barley and oats which dominated the samples have been submitted for radiocarbon dating as it is uncertain whether they represent contamination. Defended enclosures at Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire, produced largely spelt processing waste with some hulled barley (Holden? In Williams et al 1998). It would be useful to be able to make closer comparisons between sites of this type because the Shoal's Hook Farm enclosures do not appear to have had any substantial defensive ditches and banks (Phil Poucher pers.com.). Radiocarbon dating of charred plant remains would be required to make such a comparison worthwhile.

The assessment has demonstrated the potential for recovering more information about the arable economy of the site in the future, once the remaining soil samples have been processed. There is also a high probability that suitable charred cereal remains might be recovered for dating purposes.

## Further Analysis

Although the evidence from these samples is scant, it must be remembered that the assessment sub-sample sizes were small (1 litre). For the three samples assessed 6 litres, 4 litres and 6 litres of unprocessed soil remain. It would be worthwhile processing all three samples since, if the remaining soils are as productive as the sub-samples, a further 48, 24 and 30 items could be recovered, including some whole grains suitable for radiocarbon dating (NB charred plant remains are rarely evenly distributed through soil so the figures could be much higher or much lower).

In addition, six further bulk soil samples ranging in size from 10 to 40 litres are available (Irma Bernadus, pers. com.). Although the types of contexts are unknown to the author at present, these samples have the potential for producing much more secure evidence for the arable economy of the site because different types of assemblage can be recovered from different types of context, building up a more complete picture (e.g. stored crops from storage features, small-scale processing waste from domestic hearths and waste pits, larger scale processing waste from ovens and kilns where accumulated waste has been used for fuel). The author recommends that these are processed and analysed, particularly as the site appears to be unusual in form for the region, so it is worthy of a full investigation.

## REFERENCES

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Table 1: Shoal's Hook Farm, Haverfordwest (SHFH/14/EV) charred plant remains from assessment samples

sample	6	7	8
context	2611	2613 & 2614	2615
feature	ditch 2603	ditch 2607& PH 2612	ditch 2605
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>dicoccum</i> (cf. emmer glume base)			1
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (glume base)	4	1	4
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> (spikelet fork)	2	2	
Indeterminate cereal fragment	1		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. (hazelnut shell frag.)	1		
Chenopodiaceae (seed embryo)		1	
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (L.)DC. (heath grass caryopsis)		1	
indeterminate stem base		1	
TOTAL	8	6	5
sample volume (litres)	1	1	1
charred fragments per litre of soil processed	8	6	5
>3mm charcoal fragments	7	2	2
remaining unprocessed soil (litres)	6	4	6

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## **APPENDIX V: Archive Cover Sheet**

# ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

## Shoals Hook Farm, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire

Site Name:	Shoals Hook Farm
Site Code:	SHF/15/EX
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SM 97325 16776
Site Type:	Iron Age/Romano-British rural settlement
Project Type:	Strip, map & sample
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston/Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	January 2015
Categories Present:	Romano-British to Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Number of Finds Boxes:	1
Location of Finds:	TBC. Contact to be established with Scolton Manor Museum pending further discussion with developer. Finds currently (03/15) in AW stores.
Museum Reference:	TBC
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None



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