

Archaeological excavations at the western end of Lanacombe in Exmoor National Park



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This fieldwork formed part of the author's AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award
Project:

'Life with the stones: monuments, fields, settlement and social practice.
Revealing the hidden Later Neolithic-Early Bronze Age Landscapes of Exmoor,
SW Britain.'

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The fieldwork was conducted as part of the Longstone Landscapes Project,
using local and UOL volunteers.

Introduction and background

This report details the results of excavations conducted in West Somerset within Exmoor National Park, in the South West of the UK (figure 1). This was part of the authors PhD research and a community project under the aegis of the Longstone Landscapes Project. The plans for excavating at Lanacombe were drawn up as an alternative to work elsewhere which could not be undertaken during autumn 2014. The project maintained its community link by providing an opportunity for the volunteers to undertake archaeological excavation in a different area of upland Exmoor. The project was designed to supplement archaeological evaluations being carried out as part of the Exmoor Mires Project, but was run as a separate entity. The project involved close co-operation with the ongoing archaeological investigations conducted by the Exmoor Mires Project, and with the ENPA's historic environment team. The western end of Lanacombe (figure 2) was chosen due to the recent large scale geophysical survey undertaken for the Exmoor Mires Project by Carey Consulting (Carey 2013) which suggested the existence of an extensive archaeological landscape buried underneath blanket peat. Lanacombe was also within one of the PhD projects study areas, and already an area of exceptional importance given the previous excavations of an embryonic late Early Bronze Age field system and structure by Gillings (2013).

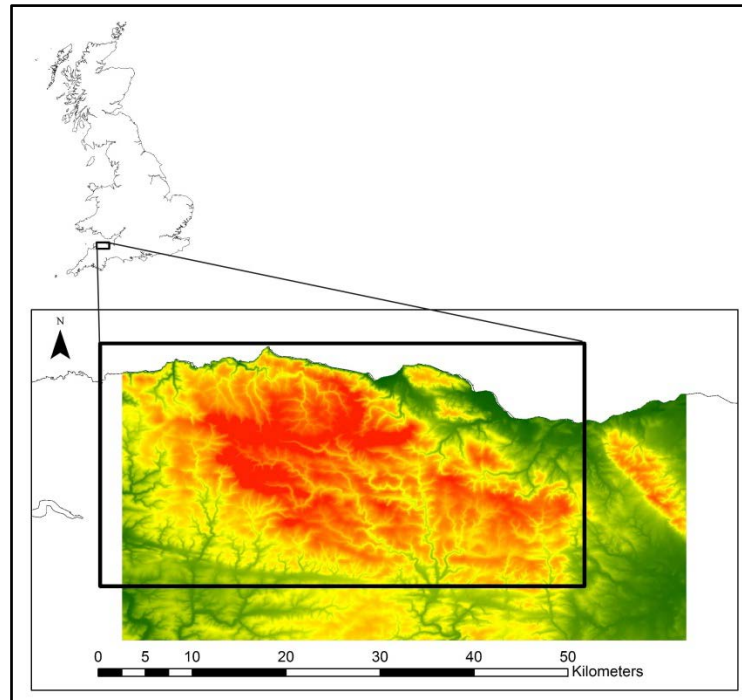


Figure 1: Location of Exmoor National Park within the UK. Produced by the author using data from Ordnance Survey (© Crown Copyright/database right 2014. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service).

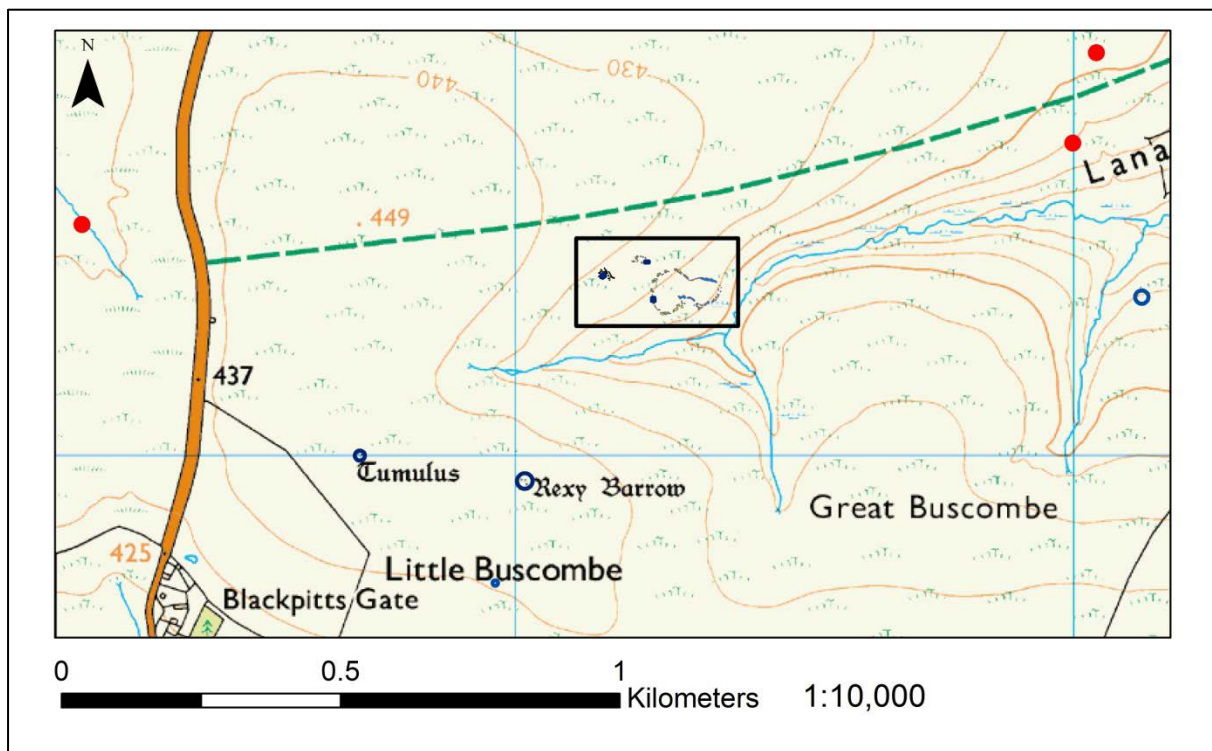


Figure 2: Site locations on the western end of Lanacombe. Produced by the author using data from ENPA HER, the Exmoor Mires Project and Ordnance Survey (© Crown Copyright/database right 2014. An Ordnance Survey/EDINA supplied service).

Excavation strategy

The overall aim was to conduct an evaluation of surviving archaeological deposits, in order to ground truth the results of a previous large scale geophysical survey. To achieve this, two small trenches were opened. The largest (trench B) targeted a possible rectangular enclosure and measured 5 x 6 m (figure 3). The second trench (trench C) was located on part of the circuit of a possible circular enclosure circa 74m in diameter (figure 4). This trench was not opened to the full extent planned. The project design explained the rationale behind this in detail and will not be repeated here (Mitcham unpublished). The limited time and resources meant that excavation had to be targeted, and the complete excavation of the stone spreads and soil layers in trench B and soil layer (4) in trench C could not be undertaken. These spreads and layers were left in situ, with the exception of small areas at the northern end of trenches B and C. The results of this project should therefore be read as a minimum evaluation of surviving deposits. Now the character of the archaeology has been established, future continued excavation may well add greatly to our understanding of the sites.

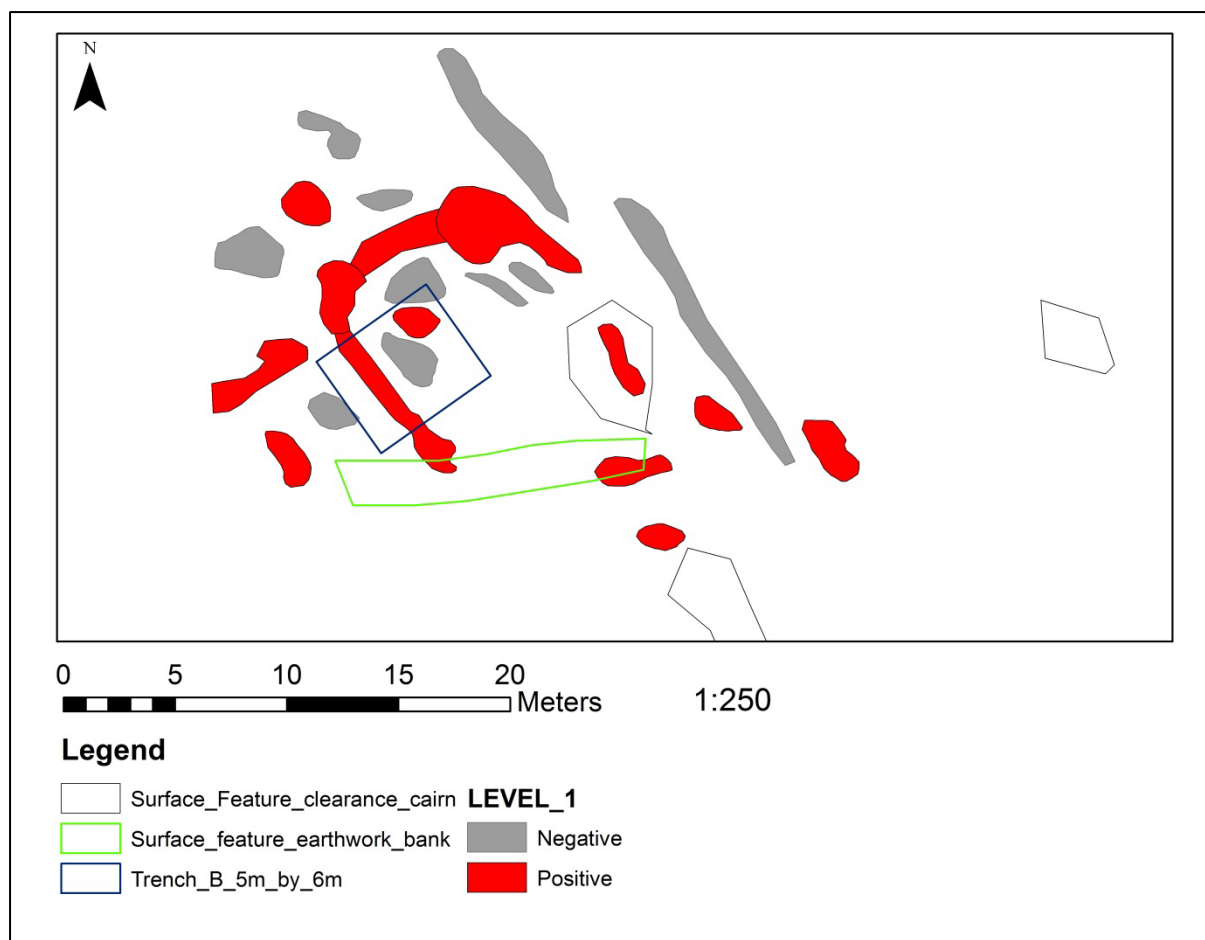


Figure 3: Location of trench B on gradiometer anomalies. Produced by the author using data from the Exmoor Mires Project.

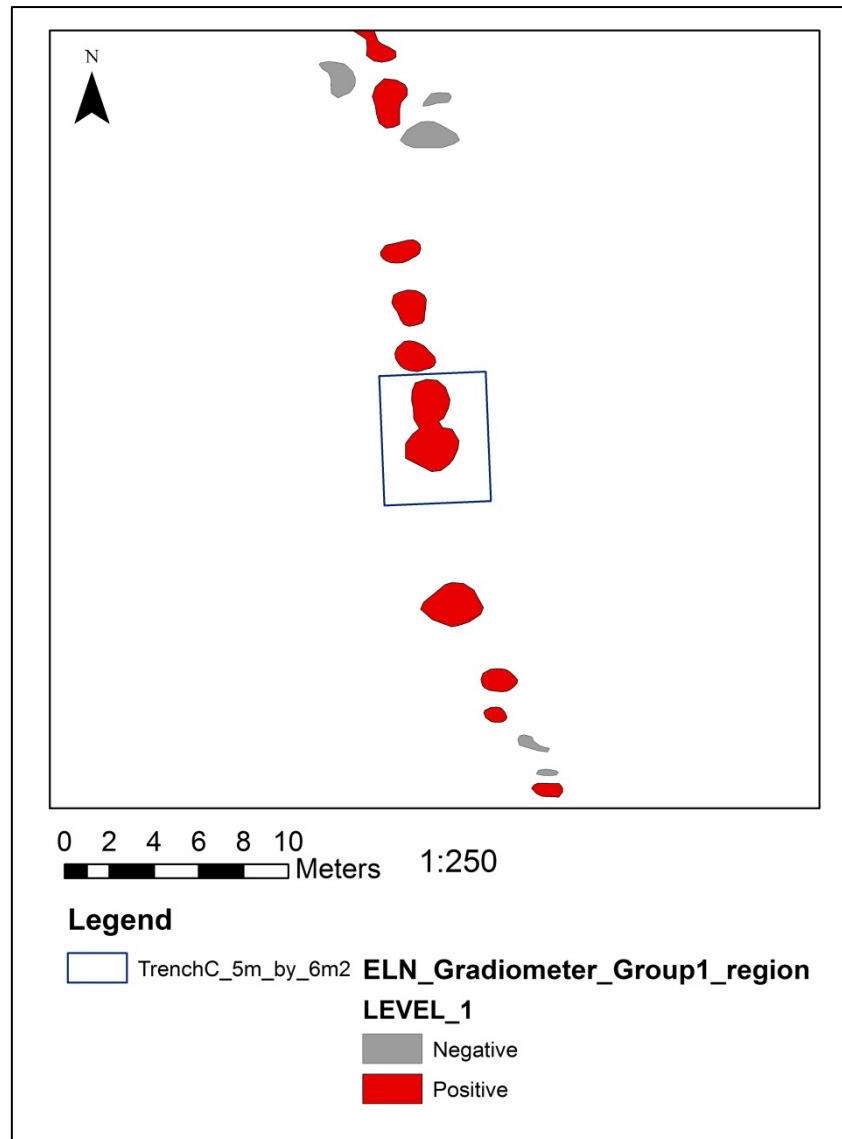


Figure 4: Location of trench C on gradiometer anomalies. Produced by the author using data from the Exmoor Mires Project.

Methods and recording

The project used a single context recording system, following standard procedures (e.g. Westman 1994). It was not deemed necessary to adhere strictly to single context planning. All exposed deposits were planned at 1:20 prior to excavation commencing, and all sections were drawn at 1:10. All cuts, fills and layers were recorded on pro-forma context sheets and given unique numbers. A system of feature numbers was used to group together all related contexts into events e.g. a stake hole. The trenches were manually de-turfed and all features were excavated by hand. All excavated features were photographed according to standard procedures for archaeological photography, using a colour digital camera (16 megapixels). The general excavation strategy was to excavate 50% of feature fills leaving

the other half in situ to preserve stratigraphy for future investigations. The trenches were back filled by hand and the turf replaced at the end of the excavation. Spoil was heaped on tarpaulins to prevent any damage to existing vegetation, and peaty turf/soil kept separate from subsoil/feature fills. The soil regime was carefully re-instated during backfilling, so that it was replaced in the same order it was removed. All excavation trenches were laid out using a Leica DGPS system by Hazel Riley. Site grids were laid out with tapes and geo-referenced to sub-centimetre level precision using a survey grade Topcon GPS+ (DGPS) system. In addition the trench edges and section grid points were also surveyed with the latter DGPS system.

The excavation followed standard guidance on environmental sampling (Campbell *et al.* 2011). The strategy was to take bulk samples from all suitable contexts in 500g polythene bags (or 100% of very small fills). The purpose behind this was to identify any charred plant remains, wood or charcoal which might allow radiocarbon dating. The samples will be processed by a specialist as part of the environmental sampling work done for the Exmoor Mires Project at Lanacombe.

Finally, throughout this report context numbers in the text are surrounded by round brackets to denote a fill, layer or deposit () and square brackets [] to denote the cut of a feature. Feature numbers in the text are written as F1, F2 etc. The remaining figures are placed in appendix 1.

Results

Trench B

The removal of the turf from trench B proved to be extremely difficult, due to the density of the vegetation and thickness of the root mat. The area was covered with a dense spread of tall grasses, with frequent clumps of reeds. This had to be cut down with the assistance of a petrol strimmer. After the removal of the turf by hand using spades, considerable time was spent cleaning off the remainder of the root matt and areas of remaining peat. The turf/peat layer covering trench B was a dark black fibrous peat, of fairly uniform depth across the trench at circa 0.25m. Extreme care was taken when removing the turf to avoid damaging any archaeological deposits accidentally. Previous fieldwork in the area had demonstrated how fragile and shallowly buried remains were likely to be at Lanacombe (Gillings and Taylor 2011; Gillings 2012). As it happens, the turf/peat layer tended to break away leaving the root matt behind. After the repeated cleaning of the trench floor to remove the remainder of this (a process which took some considerable time), a series of

subtle archaeological features were slowly revealed. Archaeological deposits were encountered directly under the peat/turf layer 1, as small cut features within stone spreads and layers of mid brown silty loam. After cleaning, the deposits encountered were defined by a series of stake holes and stone spreads, which varied noticeably across trench B. Further archaeological deposits were present underneath this horizon, some of which were covered by the layers of silty loam. These were only exposed in a small slot along the northern end of trench B. Each horizon will now be discussed in turn.

Stone spreads

These partially followed the line of the hillslope, whilst others seemed not to follow this pattern (figure 5). This was to be expected, given the trenches location on a significant and noticeable slope from the northern to the southern end, a noticeable drop of circa 1-1.5m in height (figure 6). The sense was that of an area of natural stone accumulation which had been significantly altered and engaged with by anthropogenic forces. The most interesting was F13, a band of dense small angular pieces of sandstone, forming a vague arc across trench B. F35, a less dense spread of sandstone along the bottom of the trench, may either be a continuation of this, or a separate feature. These are shown arbitrarily highlighted on figure 7. These are also left unlabelled on figure 5, to allow the reader to consider their extent unbiased by the author's interpretation. It is not clear whether F35 continues in the south corner of trench B, or whether this is a continuation of F13. Nor is it clear if F35 and F13 are separate. However, F35 is made of a less dense spread of sandstone, arguably with a greater concentration of slightly larger pieces. Time did not allow the excavation of any possible relationship between the two, so this question remains unanswered. F35 is also not fully visible within the trench, so it is not clear whether it is a definable feature or an area of the hillslope with a greater concentration of stone generally. The stone spreads could be contemporaneous with the stake holes, and represent clearance with ephemeral wooden stake defined field boundaries. None of these features produced any dating evidence. Stratigraphically the series of stake holes were cut into layer (2) with the exception of F8 which was cut into layer (10). The stone spreads sat on top of, and partially within the surface of layer (2). The south west side of trench B contains noticeably little stone, so we could be looking at clearance from that area. Establishing certain relationships between these spreads proved difficult, as it was not possible to systematically remove them in sequence across the entire trench due to the tight time constraints. The stratigraphy described for trench B is based partly on what was observable in plan, and the stratigraphic removal of the spreads in a circa 1.5m slot at the north western end of trench B. For clarity figure 8 shows a matrix of the stratigraphy of the northern slot in trench B.

Stake/post hole features

A series of small structural features were encountered in trench B (figures 9 and 10). The loose nature of the stone spreads in trench B makes establishing certain relationships between the small cut features and the former difficult. This should be remembered when interpreting the plans presented in this report. The following section discusses each of these features in turn.

F1

This feature was a small stake hole or post hole [6] with a sub circular cut shape in plan measuring 0.19m by 0.14m (figure 7). It was filled by a layer of dark black silty loam (5), with a few (less than 1%) small sub angular sandstone fragments within its matrix. Surrounding the edge of the feature was a dense deposit of small angular sandstone fragments (26), which were mostly c. 3cm-4cm in size, with a couple of larger pieces at circa 6cm-8cm in size. After the removal of the fill (5) the southern edge of the feature was entirely defined by pieces of medium and small angular sandstone fragments. These were also pressed into the edge of the cut of the feature, and it is highly likely that they are packing stones to help support a small stake or upright. The profile of the cut [6] suggests that F1 may have held two stakes, but no difference in the fill was observed across the exposed section through layer (5) which filled the entire feature (figure 8). It is not possible to ascertain whether the layer of packing (26) was one event, or several, as none of the stone around the cut directly overlaid that of the stone in the edge of the feature cut [6]. Both these deposits were recorded as a single context for that reason. If F1 was intended to hold something upright, it is likely the larger pieces which sit around F1 but respect the edge of the feature fill in plan were a second event, placed to consolidate an upright object. The fact that some of the stone around F1 respects the position of the feature edge makes this likely, whilst some of the other stone may have been displaced at some point. This fact remains a possibility, but is unproven stratigraphically. Given the shallow depth of the cut [6] the feature would have only supported a very small stake, or perhaps two of slightly differing size. Given the small size of some of Exmoor's standing stones, F1 may alternatively have been intended to hold a stone.

F2

Located immediately to the east, F2 was a second, small post or stake hole. This feature was filled with a dark black silty loam (28) containing less than 1% small sub angular sandstone fragments. F2 had a sub circular shape in plan, with a near vertical side at its eastern edge,

and a gently sloping western side (figure 9). The features shallow depth of 0.7 cm, would suggest the cut could only have supported a very small stake, which was not supporting substantial weight (figure 10). The excavator partially excavated the feature, revealing in plan part of a packing stone deposit (29). The stratigraphy here is not certain, as this deposit was not fully excavated. But it appears to have been sitting in the western edge of the cut [27], on top of the base and edge of the feature. Unfortunately this feature was only recognised following excavation of the bulk of the fill and as a result it was not sectioned. This unfortunately limits what can be said for certain about F2. A layer of angular sandstone fragments (29) around it partially pressed into the surface of the natural (2) could also be the remnants of a second packing deposit, now surviving only in part, with the rest displaced. The lack of a section drawing makes it impossible to be sure if (28) had a post pipe, although none was visible in plan prior to excavation. Finally several larger angular sandstone blocks were located to the south, and west of the feature, and may be further remnants of material used to support the post. Equally the line of blocks to the south could be interpreted as weights used potentially to trap material, such as animal skin.

F3

F3 was also a post or stake hole feature, with an oval shape in plan (figure 9). F3 was filled by (7), a dark brown silty loam with 5% small angular sandstone fragments within its matrix. The profile of the feature base in section was stepped, suggesting that there may have either been two small posts/stakes adjacent to one another, or replacement of one stake with another. No distinction was observable in the fill deposit (7) in section, and no post pipes were present. The stepped or irregular base may also be a result of digging a larger cut, to allow a stake to sit at an angle, perhaps supported by packing stone. The steep but slight slope and flat shape of the northern edge of cut [8] may also support the idea it held a stake at an angle (figure 10). A couple of small sandstone fragments were described as bridging the area between the adjacent holes. A slight spit or tongue of layer 2 was visible in plan on the edge of the excavated half of F3, the implication being that the digging of two adjacent holes left this spur of remaining natural in place. The excavator also described the eastern side as steeply concave, with some fragments of sandstone at the northern edge of the feature. The lack of post pipes and homogenous fill suggests the feature and wooden stakes were contemporaneous and removed deliberately, and it therefore silted up as a single feature. A couple of medium (4cm-7cm) sub angular sandstone fragments pressed into the natural at the features NW end, might be remnants of stone packing around the edge on this side, but no consistent deposit was present. This could have been deliberately removed if a wooden stake or stakes were removed for use elsewhere.

F7

Feature 7 had greater stratigraphic complexity, and potentially a different narrative of events to the other stake hole features within the trench (figures 9 and 10). The cut [16] had an oval shape in plan, filled by a dark brown silty loam (15), with in turn contained a distinct dark black silty loam post pipe (14). A single small sub angular sandstone fragment (1cm x 4cm) separated the fill of the post pipe (14) from the surrounding fill (15), pressed slightly into the base of the feature. This could have been intended to act as a wedge, or support to the stake represented by the presence of deposit (14). The profile of the cut [16] had a gradually sloping eastern side, with a convex base, with a gradually sloping western side. The section suggests the potential presence of a slightly stepped profile, with two slight concave shapes separated by the single sandstone fragment. A deposit of angular sandstone fragments around F7 pressed into the surface of (2) may have acted as a supporting surface, open which more packing could have been placed, or wedged in to support the stake. A single larger angular small block of sandstone was found lying partially on top of the fill of F7, adjacent to the end containing the post pipe (14). This may be the last remnant of a packing stone, which supported this stake.

F8

Located in the north west corner of trench B, another possible small post or stakehole [18] was located (figures 9 and 10). Feature 8 had a circular shape in plan; the profile U-shaped, with straight vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark grey silty loam, contained less than 1% small sandstone fragments. . The feature was cut through (10) a layer of bright orange sandy clay. The feature fill (17) did not produce any evidence of packing stones, and none were located around the edge of the feature. The feature appeared quite neatly defined, but interpretation is complicated by the fact that the layer [18] was cut into showed evidence in plan of root disturbance in the form of irregular dark stains in this area of the trench. Whilst there it is likely that F8 is a deliberately excavated feature, the possibility cannot entirely be ruled out that it is a root hole for something like a small bush. The feature did not appear to undercut itself, and given the presence of a number of more convincing stake holes in the other areas of trench B, a reasonable argument can be made that F8 is a stake or post hole. Given the lack of evidence for stone packing it may be unrelated to the other features in terms of date.

F9

Feature 9 consisted of a loose arrangement of small angular sandstone blocks, which sat on top of a slight discontinuous thin layer of silty sand (19), with weathered sandstone fragments within its matrix (figures 5, 9 and 10). The sandstone blocks seemed to define a

rough square shape in plan, but upon excavation no evidence of any specific human activity was located. The shape of the loose arrangement in plan provides some evidence that this loose arrangement was deliberately created and it was also noticeably different from the stony spread in the surrounding area. Several other small patches of the same silty sand deposit were found in this area of the trench, and the interpretation of this is unclear. It was suggested by the excavator that this may have been formed by water running down the slope, depositing the sandy material resulting from the complete breakdown of the local sandstone under weathering processes. These patches may therefore be geomorphological in origin.

F10

This was another possible stake hole with a sub circular shape in plan, filled by a dark grey silty loam (22) (figures 9 and 10). A single fragment of sandstone sitting on the edge of the cut might be a remaining packing stone. The features northern edge has a more gradual slope than the southern edge, which may indicate if it did hold a stake; it was at an angle rather than upright.

F11

This is interpreted as a possible stake hole [25] with a sub rounded shape in plan, filled by a mid-grey brown silty loam (24) (figures 9 and 10). A single medium sized angular fragment of sandstone lying on the base/edge of the cut [25] may have been a packing stone or wedge. The gradually sloping northern side of the cut, suggests if F11 was a small stake hole, it was inserted at quite a low angle. Also of significance here was a small densely packed deposit of sandstone slabs, next to F11 on its northern side. Given the shallow depth of [25], it would have required further support to hold a stake in place. The deposit of sandstone appears humanly constructed; the slabs have been placed tightly together in a way that seems unlikely to be natural. Perhaps this deposit was once more extensive acting as a supporting structure to a stake placed within [25]. Given the lack of any post pipe in (24) it would appear to have been dismantled; only leaving part of this supporting stonework in place. It is noticeable that F11 has a dispersed spread of stone around it, which is clearly visible on figure 9. This may well be the dispersed remnant of a packing deposit around a small stake, perhaps forming a loose pile or very small cairn like structure.

The northern section

A circa 1.5m slot was excavated adjacent to the northern end of trench B (figure 9). This was initially done only after a careful clean with trowels to establish if any features were present. The remnants of the stone spreads were then removed in the area of the slot, and further cleaning took place to check for features. At this point no obvious features were visible in plan within the excavated area. Given the lack of any major cut features within the rest of the trench which could account for the geophysical anomalies, it was decided to cut a box section across the width of the trench down to the natural. This intended to check if there was any archaeology being sealed by the stone spreads and silty loam deposits, and to find the level of the natural on the site. During this work, no obvious features were located or visible and no finds of cultural material were retrieved. The slot stopped about 1.5m from the western trench edge, to avoid a feature being recorded by the project team. Due to time constraints, the excavated of the slot stopped at this point, having exposed a natural layer of sandy clay. Detailed photographic recording of the northern section was undertaken, so that it could be checked for any subtle changes which were not particularly apparent on site. This exercise proved invaluable, as post excavation analysis suggested a number of subtle features and layers which were not so readily apparent in the field. The section was then amended to reflect this new information (figure 11). Given that much of this was only observable in the photographic record, the conclusions which can be drawn here are limited. A simplified version showing only feature cuts is presented in figure 12a. Now that the true complexity of the archaeology has been evaluated, future work would be desirable to investigate it further. What follows below is at best, a working hypothesis which needs to be refined by future fieldwork.

North western end of section

One of the key questions of this project was to establish the nature of a potential enclosure ditch in trench B. Initially this could not be located in the trench, and there was no obvious linear feature visible in plan which would account for this. However, careful study of the section (Figures 11, 12a and 12b) reveals that there are several features in the right area of the trench which may reflect the geophysical anomaly (F18, cuts [48] and [68]). The features are only partially exposed within the excavated section, but the shape of the visible edges suggests a ditch which is continuing below the edge of the excavated area. This possible ditch also appears to have a second visible fill (49) within a possible re-cut [50], F19. The occurrence of an area of either re-deposited, or heavily disturbed natural (51) with small sub angular sandstone fragments adjacent to these possible cuts, is suggestive of digging and ground disturbance. This is perhaps best interpreted as upcast, but it cannot be ruled out it is the remnant of a slight bank. After the silting of both these cuts, a remaining hollow above them filled with a pinkish mid grey silty loam (46). This phase of activity is sealed by a layer (31), a mid dark grey silty loam.

The up cast deposit (51) appears to have been cut through, with a small v-shaped feature F16 [69] visible in the section, filled with a mid reddish-brown deposit (52). It is not possible to tell if this is a narrow slot, or something smaller such as a stake or post hole. This may have been truncated by F15, which has an irregular basal profile, but clear edges on both sides [70]. This cut is filled with a mid dark brown silty loam (32) containing infrequent small sandstone fragments. Alternatively cut [69] and [70] may be part of the same feature, a linear or pit with a v shaped slot at its base. It is not clear if the latter was formed as a single event with the digging of cut [70]. It should also be considered that [70] may be later than the cutting of the v shaped feature [69]. This would imply [69] had already silted up before the cutting of [70]. More fieldwork would be required to test if these are localised features (pits) or more extensive ones (e.g. ditches or linear slots). Next to cut [70], a smaller cut feature F17 is present, filled with a loose deposit of mid brown silty loam, containing frequent small and several large sandstone blocks. The north eastern edge of [57] is more uncertain, but the north western edge is visible as a steeply sloping edge cut into (54). F17 is sealed by layers of mid brown silty loam (32) and (33).

Further north east the sealing layer (33) is cut by a shallow slot F20, filled by a dark brown silty loam (34). Only the western edge of cut [71] remains and this boundary is difficult to see. This activity is later than that sealed by deposit (33), which does not seem to continue any further east across the trench. Cut [71] has a square shaped slot in its base, F21, which is a stake hole. F21 consisted of an irregular v-shaped cut, onto which a deposit of pinkish grey silty loam (93) with frequent small angular sandstone fragments was placed, including a horizontally placed thin slab of sandstone, which may have acted as a post trigger or support. A wooden stake was inserted on top of this at an angle, which rotted off in situ leaving a post pipe (91). Against the north west edge of the stake a small area of dark brown sediment was packed in filling the remaining hole. A flat piece of sandstone was then pressed into its surface, wedged against the stake. Finally a square patch of dark grey sediment with very frequent small sandstone fragments on the north east side of the stake (94), may have been intended to further consolidate the area against which it was leaning.

Central area of section

Given the lack of any long linear features in the central area of the trench in the geophysical survey, it is likely that the features in this area, and further north east in trench B are more localised, and potentially represent pits, hollows or slots exposed in section. F20 is cut into what appear to be deposits of disturbed dark orange brown natural (58) and (59) with frequent small stone fragments in their matrix. Deposits (96), (97), (59) and (98) are then cut

by another small feature F22 [36], with a steeply sloping edge and concave base filled by (35). This may be a pit although it could be a longer linear feature. Only more extensive excavation could answer this question. After the complete silting of F22, this is truncated by F23 cut [82]. F22 silts up with two distinct layers of mid brown (37) and dark brown (38) silty loam (37). The lower fill 38 has a notably higher density of degraded sandstone fragments than (37), their character suggesting a natural silting rather than deliberate backfilling. F22 is then truncated by F24, a cut feature [40], again likely to be a pit, or perhaps a post hole, filled by (39). F24 also completely truncates a cut feature [81] which is partially visible in the section to the north east, F25. This is filled by a mid brown silty loam (41). F25 is sealed by a thin layer (80) prior to its truncation by [40], although this is difficult to see. Fill layer (41) also contains a large lens of silty sand and degraded sandstone, which might suggest it formed through deliberate backfilling, this deposit being mixed into (41).

All this activity in the central area of trench B incorporating cuts [71], [36], [82], [40] and [81] may have entirely removed the sealing layers of silty loam (e.g. (32) and (33)) which were present at the western end of the section, if they ever continued further to the north east. The subtle differences observable in the profiles of these features and their fills, and the fact that each cut had completely silted up before it was truncated, implies that some significant time gap occurred between them. Without firm dating evidence it is impossible to know how long this might have been, but it may have only been a year or two given the potential for features to rapidly silt up with colluvium as they sit mid way down a slope. Cuts [82] and [40] could also be read as the later repeated re-cutting of [36]. The fact each seems to have entirely filled might well reflect repeated but discontinuous activity in the same place over a period of time, rather than the clearing out of something which was partially filled and remained visible as a hollow.

The cut of feature F25, [81], truncates (43), a layer of mid grey brown silty loam with frequent small and medium angular sandstone fragments. Underneath (42), deposit (43) is a thin spread, which also fills a square cut slot [84] recorded as F26. A large block of sandstone sits on top of (43) separating the two halves of layer (42), sealing off F26. F26 is earlier than [81], by which it is truncated. F26 belongs to an earlier phase than the cutting of [81], which is earlier than [40] and [82], whilst its relationship to [36] is not clear.

Post F26 Phase- NW end of section

Belonging to a post F26 phase, after it is sealed by (42), several further cut feature edges were present further north east along the section. The earliest of these events is F27, defined by a stepped cut edge [86], and filled by a layer of mid brown silty loam with

occasional small angular and sub angular sandstone fragments. This followed by F31, another stepped cut the edge of which was difficult to see, and is therefore uncertain. This is filled by (72) a layer of dark brown silty loam, containing two large sub angular sandstone blocks and occasional medium sized sandstone fragments. Finally in the corner of the trench F32, another possible cut with a gradually sloping edge [85] was visible, filled by (74). The latter was a mid brown silty loam, with frequent medium angular sandstone fragments. A group of medium sized inclusions within (74) form a vague line down the side of cut [85] and likely represent the erosion or slumping of stones into the feature as it silted up. Both F32 and F27 were only partially exposed in the section and continue beyond the excavated area. No in situ natural, a distinct bright orange colour, was observable in this corner of the section. What the relationship of these features is to the rest of the activity is difficult to establish without further excavation. One of these deposits was also visible across part of the eastern trench section, but only for a short distance. This suggests the presence of a pit, but it is impossible to say as its full extent is not visible. This ties up closely with a geophysical anomaly which crosses the corner of the trench (figure 3). Taken together, F27, F31, and F32 may form one half of the ovoid magnetic anomaly in this area on the geophysical survey results (figure 3)

Earlier Phase – F28, F29 and F30

The earlier activity in the section is represented by F28, F29, and F30. F28 is a partially exposed cut edge [61] filled by a dark grey black sediment. This may have been recut by F29, comprising another partially exposed edge [63] filled by dark brown sediment (62). Both F28 and F29 were cut into layers of a reddish brown sandy clay (98) and a bright orange sandy clay, with infrequent small angular sandstone fragments within its upper horizon (64). F30, was filled by a dark grey black sediment (65). The edge of F30 [66] was cut into (87), a dark orange brown sandy clay with frequent small angular sandstone fragments and layer (64). F33 may cut or be a continuation of F30, a diffuse spread of dark sediment (67) extending to the NE, in what may be a shallow irregular hollow [83]. Stratigraphically F28, F29, F30 and F33 are underneath the intercutting sequence of [71], [36], [82], [40] and [81]. Cut [82] truncates F28, and F29 is truncated by cut [40]. F30 is truncated by [84] and [81], whilst F33 may be partially truncated by [84]. These features were not fully exposed in section (apart from F33) and continue beyond the excavated level. They are also likely to be the lower surviving half of once larger features, given the extent of truncation present above. Their date is unknown, and the small extent of their fills which were excavated did not produce any diagnostic material.

Overall the intensity of the intercutting activity within this end of trench B was surprising, especially when it is contained within a section that was only excavated to a depth of circa 50cm at the most. This lacks any real parallel with other sites on Exmoor (although few have yet been excavated). Given the complexity of the layers in trench B covering archaeological deposits and the extent of intercutting activity or disturbance it is perhaps not surprising that in plan the northern slot area appeared a homogenous mid brown mass. Given the very subtle colour differences between the deposits (detected more clearly in the photographic record) and that the area was complicated by the spreads of sandstone fragments, it is easy to understand why no distinct features could be defined in plan. It is also unfortunate that despite diligent searching by the project team, no finds of cultural material, or any fragments of charcoal were recovered. None of the features sectioned at the northern end of the trench produced anything to suggest a date or function. It should however be noted that Exmoor's prehistoric sites have proved so far extremely low on finds, not helped by the highly acidic soil conditions. Equally important is that much of the archaeology in trench B was not exposed, and only a tiny proportion of the site was excavated, probably less than 1%. The current project could only excavate the cut features visible in the first archaeological horizon, and test the presence of further stratigraphy in a very limited area of trench B.

Phases in trench B – a summary

The excavations revealed a completely unexpected level of intercutting phases, all contained within a depth of just circa 50cm of stratigraphy. This is a complete contrast to what was known from previous work on Lanacombe around the stone settings, where the evidence suggested a short lived structure which probably had a single use, and various stone spreads and cairns (Gillings 2012). No comparable evidence of such an intense area of intercutting features was evident. Whilst most of the activity in the northern end of trench B was recorded from the section, and not fully excavated, enough information is present to suggest a basic scheme of phasing. The true sequence is likely to be more complex. This is a relative chronology based upon what is observable in the section, in terms of relationships and position. The outline below is based on these key observations.

Until the deposits are fully excavated, the extent of the features cannot be known, and therefore it will not be conclusively proven. What follows is a tentative outline of the main phases in trench B, from the earliest onwards:

Phase 1:

Several features occur in the bright orange sandy clay natural (F28, F29, F30, and F33). They are filled with a dark sediment but it is not clear if they represent dug features, or natural ones (e.g. tree roots). The edges appear to be defined rather than irregular, so the current interpretation is that they represent some form of human intervention. Alternatively, they might be evidence of tree clearance from the landscape. These were only partially dug into and did not produce charcoal, but they need to be fully excavated before firm conclusions can be drawn. There is no direct evidence for a date of this phase, but given the stratigraphic position beneath the other activity, if prehistoric this could have occurred in an earlier part of prehistory, such as the Mesolithic or Neolithic.

The digging of the possible enclosure ditches F18 and F19 and the formation of up-cast deposit (51) at the north western end of the section may belong to this phase. Deposits (54 and (55) may have also formed through digging or ground disturbance of the natural, and leaving an upstanding area of material.

Without any direct dating evidence it is impossible to say whether these features are contemporaneous with phase 1.

Phase 2:

A possible post hole F16 [69] is cut into layer (51). Feature F17, cut [57] is dug into layers (54 and 55). The re-cutting of the possible ditch [50] might have occurred during this phase. Digging of F26, a shallow hollow [84] occurs, which fills up with deposit (43) and is sealed by layers (42) and (102) including a large block of sandstone. The formation of (59) may have occurred here and [84] might once have extended much further NW west. Deposit (59) may have also been filling this shallow feature [84]. Although the area in between is completely truncated by later events, so this is at best an assumption. Layer (58) may have formed at this stage as up-cast from digging out material, creating a disturbed deposit. Perhaps towards the end of this phase, the possible ditch cuts at the NW end of the section have silted up, leaving a partial hollow which is then filled by (46). This activity is then sealed off completely by layer (31).

Phase 3:

Several features truncate the layers which seal earlier activity. This activity is directly underneath the turf. This includes cut [70] which truncates layer (31) and [69] from phase 2. Cut 70 fills with layer (32), which may spill over to the NE into a slight hollow, therefore (32) and (33) may be the same deposit. Deposits (32) and (33) also seal F17, which had completely filled up by this stage.

Phase 4:

Layer (33) is then truncated by F20 cut [71], followed by the creation of stake hole F21 and associated packing deposits. This suggests that F20 occurred after F15 had completely silted up. The presence of layer (95) which F21 cuts being quite high up stratigraphically, and deposits (96), (97), (59) and (43), some of which are truncated, may suggest these layers might have continued across the central area of the trench during this phase. This is at best conjecture.

A series of intercutting small pits or slots occurs, with F22 cutting through layers (96), (97), and (59) and (98). This sequence begins with F22, which is then cut by F23. The latter is then cut by F24. Each is cut after the previous feature has completely filled up. The position of F25 in this sequence is unclear; it is cut by F24 and is therefore earlier than the latter. F25 may actually be the other half of F23. The fact that these cuts are distinguishable suggests significant time gaps between them, but it could represent the repeated cutting of a similar feature for the same purpose, over a number of years.

At the north eastern end of the section, another sequence of intercutting features occurs, with F27, followed by F31, and then F32. The earliest of these, F27, cuts through layer (42) and is therefore later than the deposition of (42). These features might be contemporaneous with the intercutting pit features in the centre beginning with F22, and stake hole F21 but there is no dating evidence from either. All are directly beneath the peat.

The digging of a series of features, some of which were stake holes and the formation of the stone spreads in the rest of trench B also may belong to this phase. This activity is cut into the silty loam deposit (2), and is also directly beneath the turf. The position of these events in time is difficult to establish, as there is no specific dating evidence available. This activity may not all be contemporaneous. This is the latest phase, but might have taken place during the Bronze Age, based on its position within a field system of presumed Bronze Age date. However, no dating evidence was recovered. No further activity takes place and the area is sealed by the peat and turf layer (1).

Trench C

This area was opened to investigate a small part of the circuit of a large circular enclosure, which is circa 74m in diameter, suggested by a previous geophysical survey undertaken on behalf of the Exmoor Mires Project (Carey 2013: 11). Due to constraints only half of the planned trench area was opened. The turf was removed by hand using spades, and despite the greater depth of peat here in comparison to trench B, it came away much more easily

than for trench B. After careful cleaning the surface using a combination of trowels and shovels, a number of loose concentrations of sandstone blocks were located (figure 13). There were no obvious deliberately set stones, and a few which were upright or edge set looked to have reached that position due to geomorphological processes such as frost heave, and were not set within humanly constructed features. The loose sandstone blocks and piles were partially within, and protruding out of a layer of mid grey brown silty loam (4), with very frequent c.50% small sub angular weathered sandstone fragments in its matrix.

The only likely feature initially located was F5, defined by a loose heap of stones in the north west corner of trench C. This appeared partially spread out, covering an area of 0.6m by 0.9m. Initially this was thought of as a possible loose clearance heap. The deposit was formed of medium and larger sandstone blocks, some of which were well rounded with significantly weathered surfaces. This is significant, quite different to the stone spreads in trench B which were typically angular or sub angular in shape. The significantly weathered surfaces also suggested that the deposit had been exposed to the elements at some point in time.

After initial cleaning no trace of the enclosure ditch or pits were located, despite a visible dip in the northern section wall in the centre of the trench, suggesting a deeper cut feature might have allowed the peat to slump down further in covering it. Due to time limitations, after planning of the stone heaps the excavation focused entirely on a slot circa 1m in width along the northern edge of trench C to establish the presence or absence of a potential ditch or pits defining the geophysical anomaly.

After the removal of layer (4) in the excavated slot, several potential features were revealed in plan (figure 14). A potential post or stake hole turned out to be a small lens of clay, without any depth or distinguishable cut. Feature 4 was a dense layer of weathered angular sandstone fragments. Whilst this was initially planned as a single spread, subtle variation was evident within it. This suggested at least three different fills or features were visible in plan. The dense packing of sandstone fragments initially did not make sense, as they did not look like archaeological feature fills. A second area of densely packed sandstone had an even stranger appearance, with a highly irregular sub rounded shape in plan, located about 0.3m to the east of F4. This was defined by very frequent edge set thin fragments of heavily weathered sandstone, which looked to have been formed by geological or geomorphological forces rather than anthropogenic influence. It was decided to excavate the slot to a greater depth to establish the stratigraphy of the layers in trench C, and to make sense of the dense spread of sandstone fragments F4. This slot stopped circa 2m from the western side of trench C, but failed to find convincing evidence of the ditch (figure 15).

This slot revealed an extremely densely packed deposit of weathered sandstone, sitting within a clear but slightly irregular cut [75] in the natural sandy clay (21) (Figure 16) F34 was visible in both the western end of the excavated slot wall, and the northern section face of trench C (figure 16). Alternatively this might be a geological feature, sitting in a dip in the underlying natural, rather than a humanly constructed feature. It did not produce any artefactual material or dating evidence. A matrix showing the sequence of trench C is shown in figure 17.

After the further excavation at the northern end of trench C it became clear layer (4) was in fact sealing potential archaeological deposits across the trench. F5 appeared in fact to be partially protruding through Layer (4), the implication being that (4) may have partially covered, or formed against the sides of this stony heap. This is interesting as the location of F5 is on the outside of the circuit of the enclosure suggested by the geophysics, and therefore is a possible candidate for a slight remnant of an external enclosure bank, or a loose clearance heap.

After the recording was finished in trench C, due to limited time and resources, all efforts were then directed towards finishing Trench B. At this point, it was unclear as to why the geophysical anomaly could not be located in trench C. However towards the end of the project, thanks to Lee Bray, it became possible to extend the slot further to the east to establish the reality or not of the geophysical anomaly, and to make sense of the confusing nature of F4. This exercise suggested that in fact the variation visible in the surface of F4 was potentially archaeological in origin and revealed that there were potentially two cuts visible in the section, one being a possible recut, cutting through the first. It also suggested that F5 may have been the remnant of a former bank, with more potential bank material revealed in the slot. It was only at this point that it became apparent, that layer 4, may have been anthropogenic in origin and potentially related to activity in or around the enclosure. Given this, and the potential importance of a highly unusual enclosure, further work in the trench was required. With no more time left in the current project, it was agreed with Lee Bray (ENPA, Exmoor Mires Project and historic environment team advisor to the works) , that further investigation in the trench would be completed as part of fieldwork for the Exmoor Mires Project. This would also allow specialist environmental sampling of layer (4) to take place if deemed appropriate. This work was being undertaken in the Lanacombe area by South West Archaeology, and will therefore be reported elsewhere. The results for trench C described here are therefore likely to change considerably.

Discussion

As the full implications of the results will be considered in detail in the authors PhD thesis, only a limited discussion can be presented here. This will focus on answering a few key questions, and suggesting a few interpretations.

Given the results outlined above, a number of key questions need to be answered. Firstly, what is represented by the scatter of small stake holes and stone spreads in trench B, the latest archaeological horizon. Secondly how should the intense intercutting activity, exposed only at the northern end of trench B be interpreted? The other two crucial questions remain when all this activity took place, and whether any of this activity is connected to the Lanacombe field system (MSO7102) which it is in close proximity to. Given the as yet unclear results of trench C, the discussion here will focus on trench B. Given the lack of any dating evidence from any of the trenches, and the total absence of any finds, it is impossible to answer these questions fully at present.

Without complete excavation of the entire area of trench B, it is difficult to understand with certainty how the stake holes and small features encountered, relate to the activity in the northern end of the trench. This is also made difficult by the fact that the subtle variations in the deposits of silty loam were not observable in plan across the rest of the trench. Variation was observable in the stone spreads and inclusions, but given the complexity of the deposits recorded at the northern end, it would be unwise to assume the pattern is the same across the entire trench. However stratigraphically speaking the excavation in the rest of the trench did not proceed below any of the sealing deposits, and only dealt with features that were directly under the turf. The stake holes and the stone spreads were part of the latest phase of activity (phase four). The digging of the stake holes through the sealing deposits of silty loam, took place some considerable time after the earlier activity underneath these deposits. A significant time gap would be required for these sealing deposits to have built up, but it is impossible to say how long that might have been. A further question becomes what processes, anthropogenic or otherwise, led to the formation of the silty loam deposits covering much of the earlier archaeology.

The stake holes and stone spreads could belong to the same phase of activity as the features at the northern end which were also directly beneath the peat, and not sealed by silty loam layers. Unfortunately there is no dating evidence to confirm this. As for the purpose of the stake holes, given the lack of any substantial post holes, they seem unlikely candidates to support a significant structure. Perhaps the most likely interpretations are either that they form an ephemeral fence line, or held very small stakes which may have been part of a very

short lived structure, like a tent. They do seem to form a partial arc, with some degree in the regularity of their spacing. Perhaps more of the spread stone in the trench was packed around them for support, or even cut turfs used. Some seem to have had a sloping edge, suggesting a stake inserted at an angle. Whatever this formed, the stakes were all removed with the possible exception of F21 and F7, which may have decayed in situ, or broken off, indicated by a post pipe. The stake hole F7, might occur within stone spread F13. The latter is interpreted here as being created by the clearance of stone from an area, potentially related to the group of stake holes. This relationship is difficult to establish with certainty, especially given the high potential for stone to move around under geomorphological processes and erosion, but the most likely interpretation is that stone spreads occurred around the group of stake holes, and are potentially contemporaneous. They may be a result clearance of the area for whatever the purpose of the stakes was. The subsequent spreading out of material and erosional processes moving the stone afterwards has complicated the picture greatly. No floor surface was located but if the stakes formed a light weight structure, this might simply have been made of organic materials, such as a spread of grasses or brushwood. Traces of such a surface might be underneath layer (2), so this possibility cannot be ruled out at present.

The date of the latest phase is difficult to say, but the use of stone packing wedges and small stakes is similar in character to the stake holes found during Gillings earlier excavations nearby, around Lanacombe II and III (2013). Although these were predominantly straight sided (*ibid*: 60). They formed part of a late early Bronze Age activity structure, and also field boundaries, which were loosely dated to between 1600-1400 BC (Gillings 2013). The fact that several of the trench B stake holes were set at an angle is therefore curious, and suggests they were not a fence line, or a vertical post ring similar to that at Lanacombe III. An alternative might be an ephemeral tent like frame, formed by stakes set at a low angle, covered in animal skins, and perhaps tied in the centre, supported by a central post. It could also have been a frame to support something for a specific activity, rather than a structure. The activity in trench B could be taking place around this time c.1600-1400 BC, but might well be later, or earlier than this given a total lack of dating evidence in trench B. The archaeology is sealed beneath peat, in an area that has seen little significant activity since the end of the Bronze Age, other than more recent disturbance by peat cutting and drainage works. It is therefore likely to be later prehistoric purely on these grounds. This remains however, an unanswered question.

The implications of the activity located at the northern end of trench B is crucial, as it suggests that the varied stone spreads, and layers of silty loam covering the rest trench are likely to be sealing further archaeological deposits in trench B. The current project lacked the time and resources to undertake any further investigation in the rest of trench B. Only

the first archaeological horizon could be dealt with, along with a rapid evaluation of a sample of what might be lying further down. At this point it is worth returning to the geophysical survey results, and how they relate to the findings in trench B. The suggested interpretation of a small ditched enclosure now appears to correlate well with the features in the northern section face of trench B. The magnetic anomaly which was interpreted as a possible in situ heating event inside this suggested enclosure might be sealed beneath the layers of silty loam and sandstone fragments. This would explain why no evidence of a feature could be found in this part of the trench. Alternatively, a similar occurrence to the intense intercutting features, which appear to sit within a slight excavated hollow in the section face, may be the cause of this anomaly, combined with the intercutting features in the north east corner of the section. Whilst no evidence of burning was located in terms of charcoal fragments, or heat cracked stone, this may be present underneath the sealing deposit layer (2). Given the lack of finds, the purpose of the enclosure and the intercutting small features remains an unanswered question. But it does suggest the magnetometry results are a reliable indicator of the archaeological deposits in the area. The evidence albeit tentative, and not conclusively proven, suggests that a ditched enclosure does exist in trench B.

Given how little of the site has been excavated and the single section which displayed the complex series of intercutting features and layers, it is very difficult to draw any firm conclusions about what the activity in trench B represents. This pattern is suggestive of a complex sequence of intense periods of activity followed by gaps. Perhaps this is due to seasonal use of the area, or discontinuous activity in the same location over a longer period of time. It remains unknown as to the time depth represented by the circa 50cm of exposed stratigraphy, this could be as broad as Mesolithic to Bronze Age, or equally cover a much shorter period, and be entirely Bronze Age. There are stake holes, and potentially pits, ditches, and excavated slots. But little can be made of these until their true extent in plan and chronology is understood. Whether the enclosure contained a structure, or defined an activity area, none of the possible interpretations can be ruled out at present. It may have been involved in anything from mortuary activity, habitation, agriculture or a specific processing activity. The most likely explanation seems to be that the activity could be related to the probable Bronze Age field system (MSO7102), which may extend right up to the area of trench B (although the identity of the nearby surface features remains unexplored). Given the lack of finds or dating evidence, further investigation of the site is required to draw any more detailed conclusions. However, this excavation work has proved that despite the shallow burial and lack of soil depth, the trench B area contains an unexpectedly complex sequence of activity in just 50cm of stratigraphy.

Analysis of LiDAR data for the area by the author, along with the recognition of features from the geophysical survey (Carey 2013), suggests that drainage ditches which most likely relate to 19th century works exist in the area, and may have destroyed archaeological features to the east of trench B. The geophysics also suggested peat cutting to the south and south west (Carey 2013). This might suggest the archaeology in trench B is a surviving patch, which avoided destruction by this activity. Significantly the drainage ditches visible in the LiDAR data run on a different NE-SW alignment to the features in the north of trench B (if any were linear features or slots). This would suggest that none of the small cut features are likely to be later drainage ditches, although disturbance by this remains a possibility in the area.

Potential evidence of the field system is located very close to trench B, with several possible clearance cairns, and a slight earthwork bank visible as subtle surface features (figure 3). This is likely a part of the previously known field system (HER MSO7102) located not far from the area. Whilst it is not clear whether the enclosure is related to this activity, the geophysical anomaly suggests that it respects this earthwork bank, and the positions of several potential clearance cairns. Whilst it is difficult to say if the bank and cairns are related on the basis of surface evidence, one possible interpretation is that the enclosure may have created a defined area within the corner of a field plot. Some of the small features within the northern section of trench B may be a result of cultivation, although they do not seem to have a clear regularity of spacing. Clearly much more excavation would be needed to test this hypothesis, and to confirm whether the slight earthwork bank is an anthropogenic feature. It might have performed a function within a wider field system, perhaps for management of livestock, or keeping them out of an activity area. Equally the enclosure might have served a less prosaic purpose. Clearly this is just speculation, and can only be tested by more fieldwork in the future.

Conclusion

The excavations have been successful in evaluating the causes of some of the geophysical anomalies. A significant proportion of the gradiometer anomalies are archaeological in origin, and therefore the results of the former can be interpreted with greater confidence, at least in this area of Lanacombe. The results also suggest that in the area generally the archaeology is far more complex than anticipated. This is perhaps not surprising, given how little excavation of prehistoric features on Exmoor has taken place previously. This has implications for understanding Exmoor's prehistoric landscapes generally, in that it has

revealed just how much might be buried underneath peat without any surface trace. Assessments based purely on distribution maps of visible sites could well be quite misleading. The intensity of the intercutting features, within such shallow stratigraphy (c.50cm) was also surprising. This does not have an obvious parallel with any other sites on Exmoor at present. Although again, few have seen any excavation take place.

However, the results here are limited by the tiny fraction of the deposits which could be excavated with the time and resources available. The phasing of the site should only be read as a work in progress, which needs to be investigated further. Much of what was encountered was only partially exposed in a section. Now that the basic stratigraphy of the enclosure site in trench B has been revealed, future work can build an appropriate strategy to take this forward. Further excavation would likely prove much more fruitful in terms of understanding the site, now that the stratigraphy has been clarified. The most significant limitation of the results is the lack of any dating evidence or artefactual material. It is not clear whether the activity in trench B relates to a very long period of time, spanning the Mesolithic to the end of the Bronze Age, or a much shorter period, for example the Later Neolithic or Early – Middle Bronze Age. It is hoped that environmental analysis of the soil samples might shed some light on this. Given the small size of the samples this is perhaps unlikely. Given how little artefactual material sites on Exmoor have tended to produce, a much greater proportion of the deposits would need to be excavated to have any chance of recovering material which might date the activity, including the complete removal of layer (2). That said given the intensity of activity within the small enclosure in trench B, it would appear to be a highly promising site for more detailed investigations in the future.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank all of the volunteers from the Longstone Landscapes Project and the University of Leicester who undertook the work. The volunteer's local knowledge and willingness to solve problems helped the project greatly. Special thanks must go to Andrew Bell and Charlotte Black whose efforts in the field were invaluable. Mark Gillings advice and support was crucial to the success of this project, and kindly visited to help with de-turfing. Lee Bray (ENPA, Mires Historic Environment Officer) was a great source of advice and help in the field, and his support and frequent visits were greatly appreciated. Without his willingness to co-operate with my project I would have been forced to abandon doing fieldwork at all, when the initial plan had to be changed at short notice. In addition I would like to thank Rob Wilson-North, Shirley Blaylock, Catherine Drove, Faye Balmond and Sophie Thorogood for their support, visits and advice throughout. Sophie also very kindly helped to backfill the trenches. Thanks must also go to Faye Balmond for co-ordinating the volunteer

involvement and the loan of the excavation equipment. Finally thanks to the tenant at Lanacombe who took a welcome interest in the archaeology.



Figure 5: Trench B pre-excavation plan. Figure produced by the author and shown reduced in size from original scale.

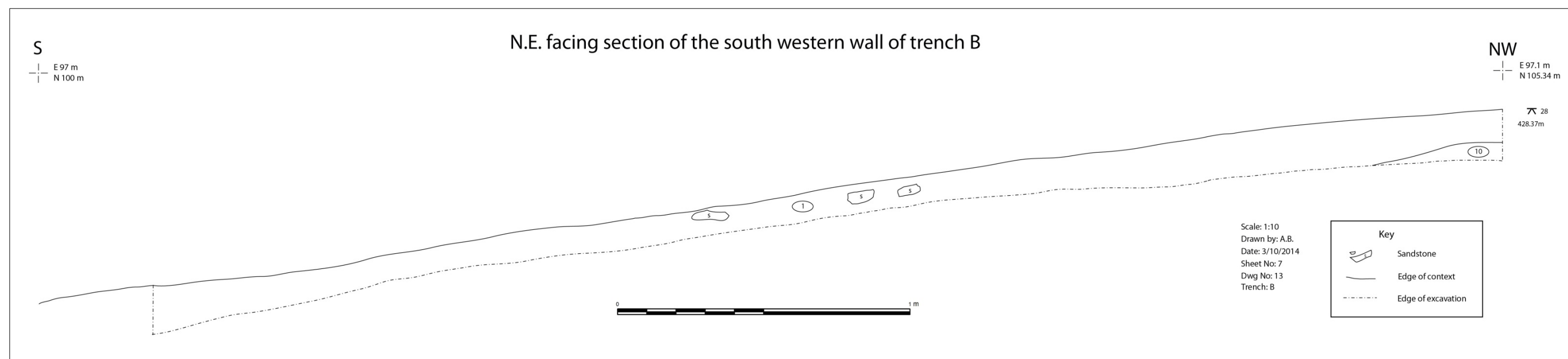


Figure 6: Section drawing of south western wall of trench B, showing peat depth and slope profile across the site. Figure produced by the author and shown reduced in size from original scale.

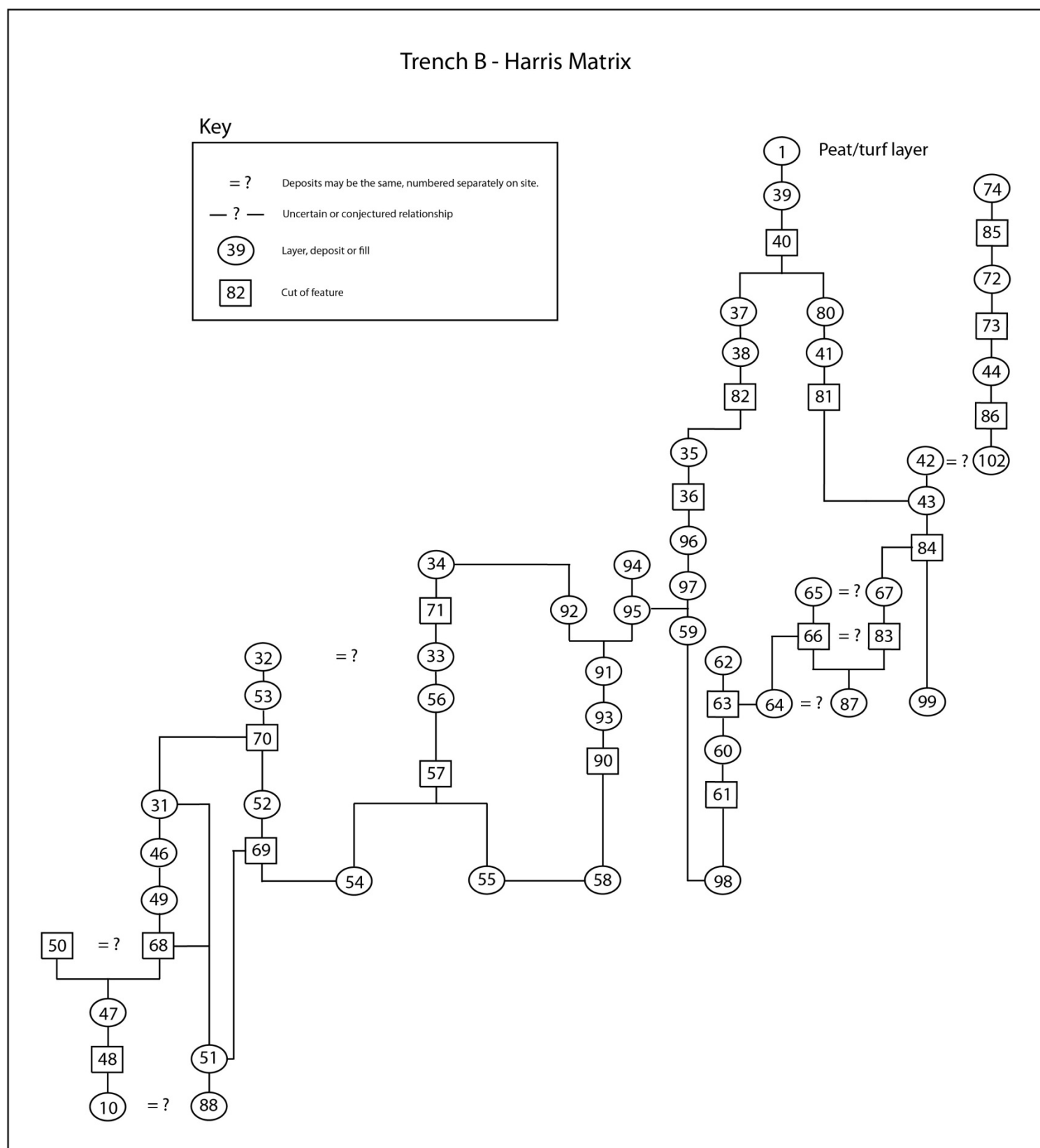
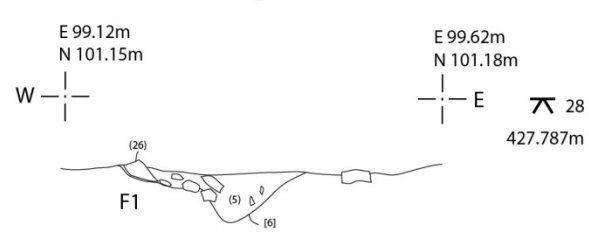


Figure 8: Trench B Harris matrix. Figure produced by the author.

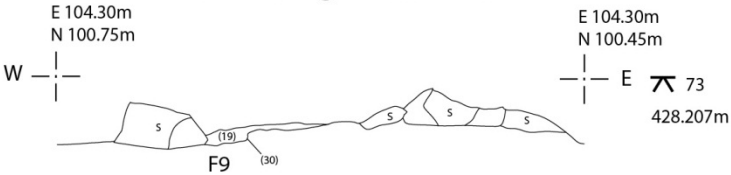
Trench B Section Drawings

S.S.E. Facing section of F1



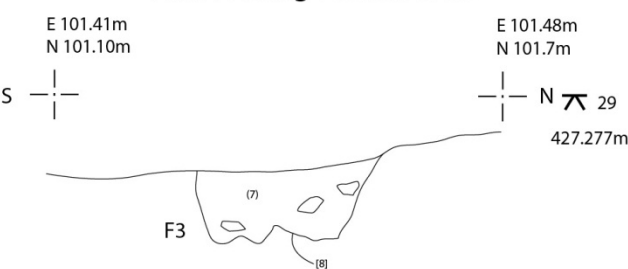
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Drawn by: D.B.
Date: 30/09/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 4
Trench: B
Feature No: 1

South facing section of F9



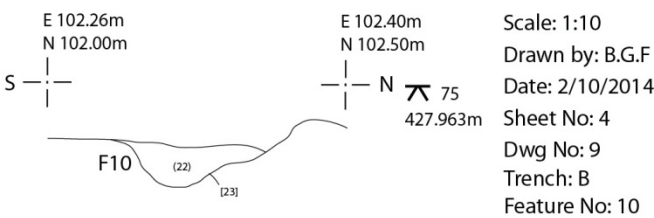
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Date: 1/10/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 8
Trench: B
Feature No: 9

E.N.E. Facing section of F3



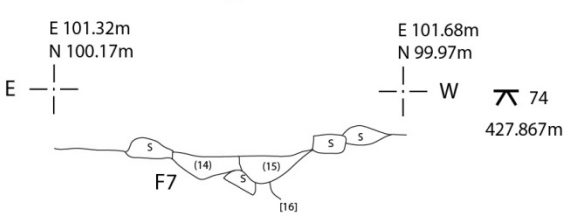
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Date: 30/09/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 5
Trench: B
Feature No: 2

East facing section of F10



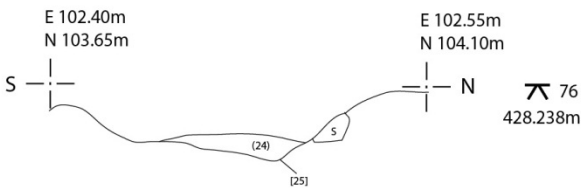
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Drawn by: B.G.F
Date: 2/10/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 9
Trench: B
Feature No: 10

North facing section of F7



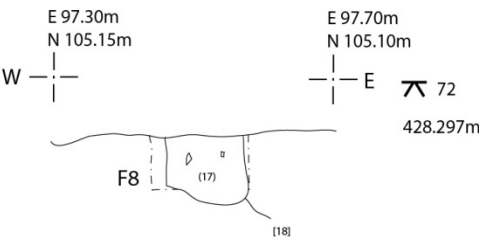
Scale: 1:10
Drawn by: D.M.
Date: 1/10/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 6
Trench: B
Feature No: 7

East facing section of F11



Scale: 1:10
Drawn by: B.G.F
Date: 2/10/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 10
Trench: B
Feature No: 11

South facing section of F8



Scale: 1:10
Drawn by: A.B.
Date: 1/10/2014
Sheet No: 4
Dwg No: 7
Trench: B
Feature No: 8

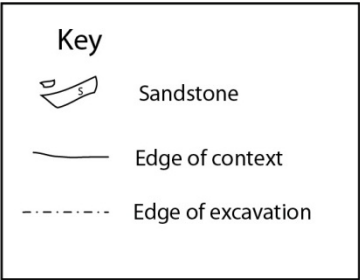


Figure 10: Section drawings of features in trench B. Figure produced by the author.

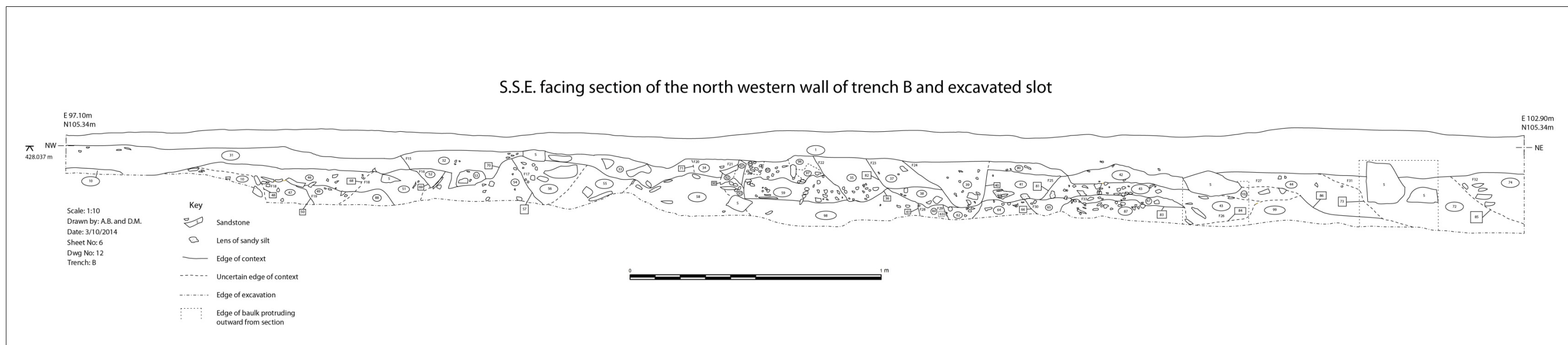


Figure 11: Northern section of trench B. Figure produced by the author and shown reduced in size from original scale.

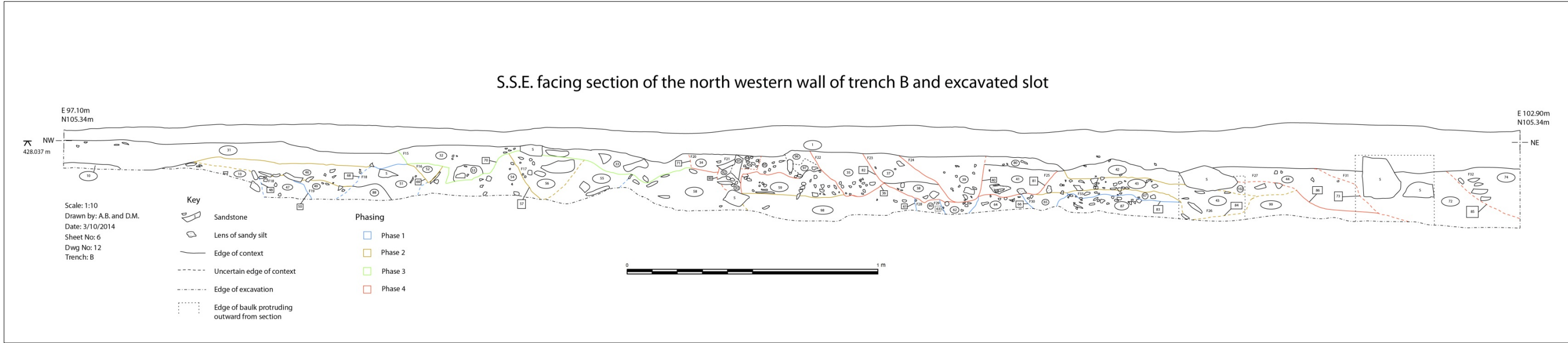


Figure 12a: The northern section of trench B, showing phasing and feature numbers. Figure produced by the author and shown reduced in size from original scale.

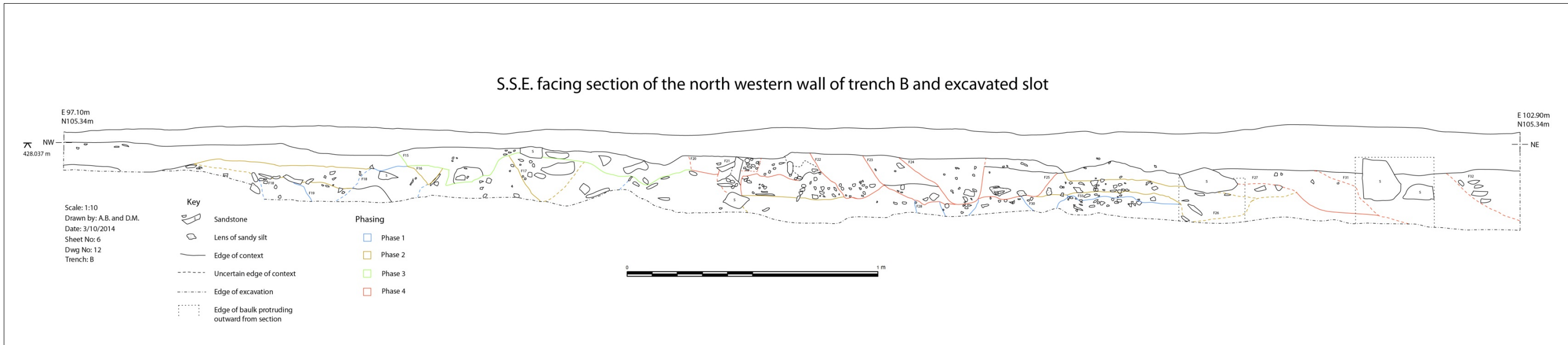


Figure 12b: Simplified version of the northern section of trench B, showing feature cuts only. Figure produced by the author and shown reduced in size from original scale.

Trench C pre excavation plan (LNC 2014)

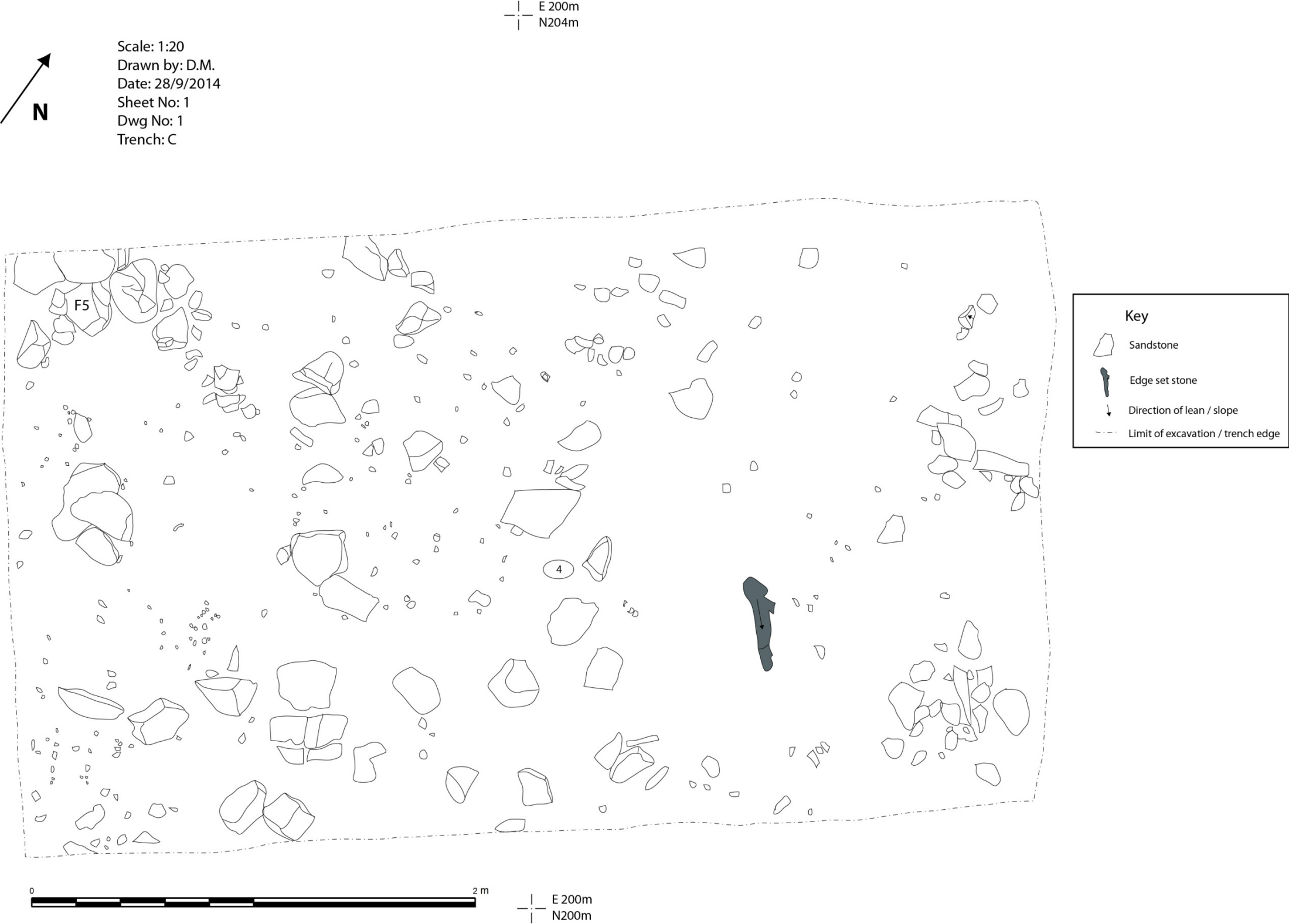


Figure 13: Trench C pre-excavation plan. Figure produced by the author.

Trench C pre excavation plan of level 2 in excavated slot (LNC 2014)

E 200m
N204m



Scale: 1:20
Drawn by: D.M., A.B., L.B.
Date: 28/09/2014
Sheet No: 2
Dwg No: 2
Trench: C

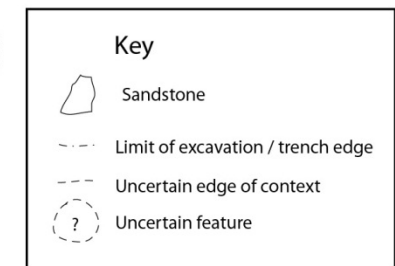
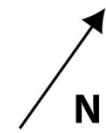


Figure 14: Trench C pre-excitation plan of level 2 in excavated slot. Figure produced by the author.

Trench C Post Excavation Plan (LNC2014)





E 200m
N204m



Scale: 1:20
Drawn by: D.M.
Date: 3/10/2014
Sheet No: 10
Dwg No: 16
Trench: C



Key

-  Sandstone
-  Limit of excavation / trench edge
-  Uncertain edge of context
-  Uncertain feature

E 200m
N200m

Figure 15: Trench C post-excavation plan. Layer 4 was not excavated, but the stone spread above/within it is not shown here for clarity. Figure produced by the author.

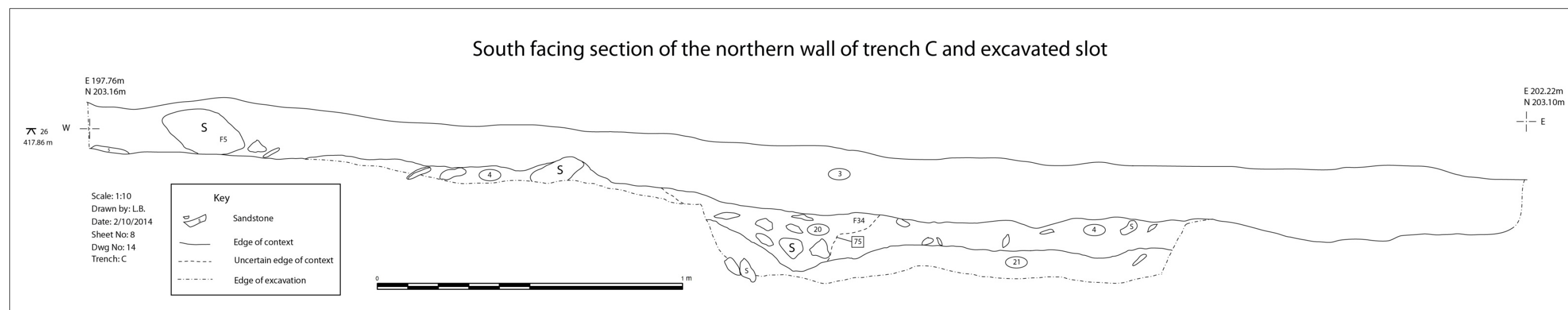


Figure 16: Section of northern wall of trench C, showing excavated slot. Figure produced by the author and shown reduced in size from original scale.

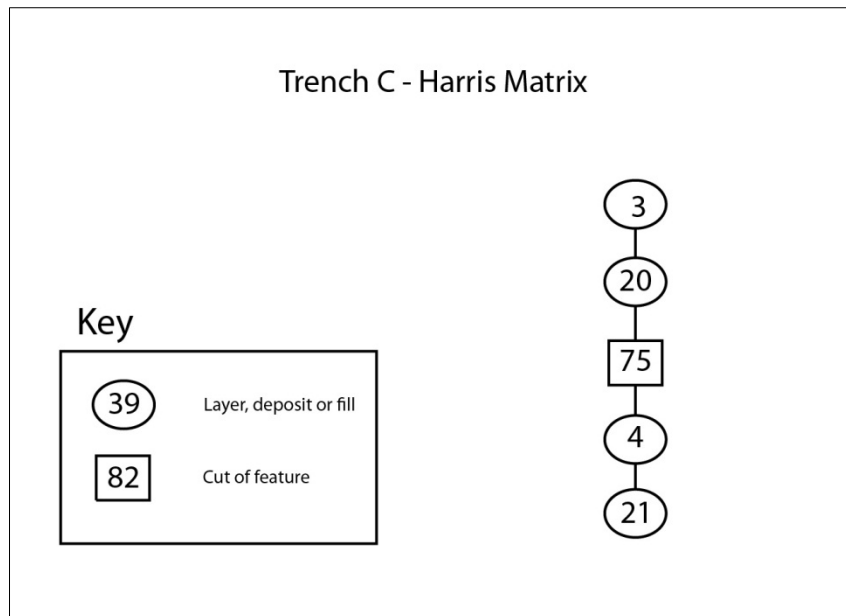


Figure 17: Trench C matrix showing stratigraphic sequence. Figure produced by the author.

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