



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

Archaeology

ARCH2

Unit 2 Archaeological Skills and Methods

Sources Booklet

Sources for use in answering questions in Section A

Introduction: Bronze Age Burnt Mounds and Early Medieval Timber Structures at Town Farm Quarry

Town Farm Quarry is located to the east of Burlescombe village, approximately 10km to the east of the town of Tiverton in Devon (**Maps 1a, b & c**). The site sits on soils that vary between grey sandy clays and yellowish-brown silty sands. As part of a routine archaeological assessment of the quarry by Devon County Council, a desk-top study followed by a walk-over survey were carried out by Exeter Archaeology.

No archaeological features were evident from this initial work. However, a later geophysical survey, commissioned in advance of mineral extraction by ARC Ltd, did reveal some interesting anomalies.

Subsequent topsoil stripping exposed a multi-period site. Surviving remains were from two distinct periods (**Figure 1**):

- Bronze Age: two burnt mounds (549 & 569) with associated troughs (645 & 659), and a timber-lined pit (658)
- Seventh century AD: a plank-lined springhead of well-preserved timbers associated with a nearby spring (678).

A range of studies of the well-preserved organic remains has revealed the changing environment of the site over time.

Glossary:

Burnt Mounds: these built up as people discarded stones that had been heated and brought into contact with water, either to heat it or to produce steam.

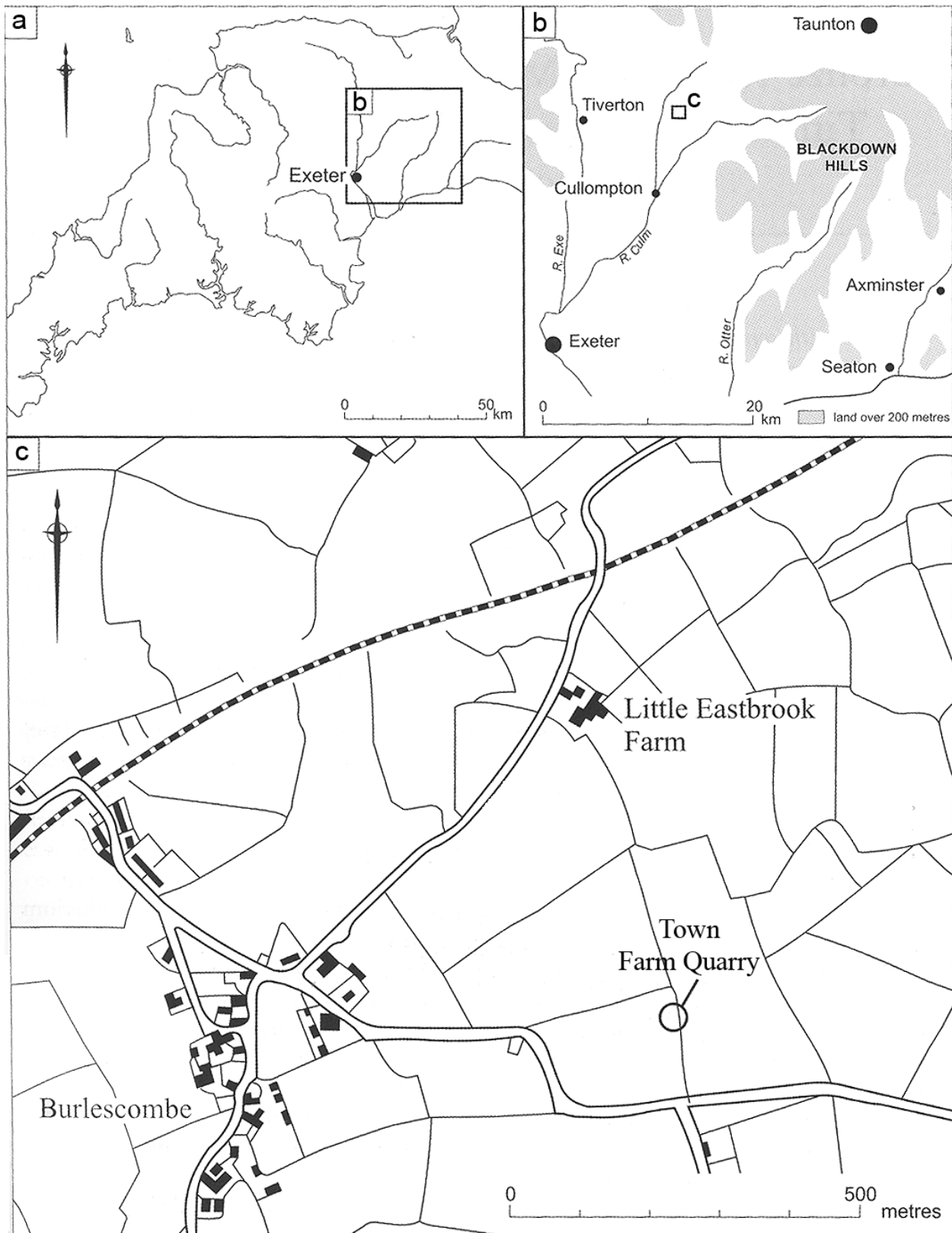
Maps 1a, b and c: The location of Town Farm Quarry**Turn over ▶**

Figure 1: Site plan showing the location of troughs 645 and 659 and their associated burnt mounds 549 and 569, the plank-lined springhead 678 and pits 658, 672 and 693

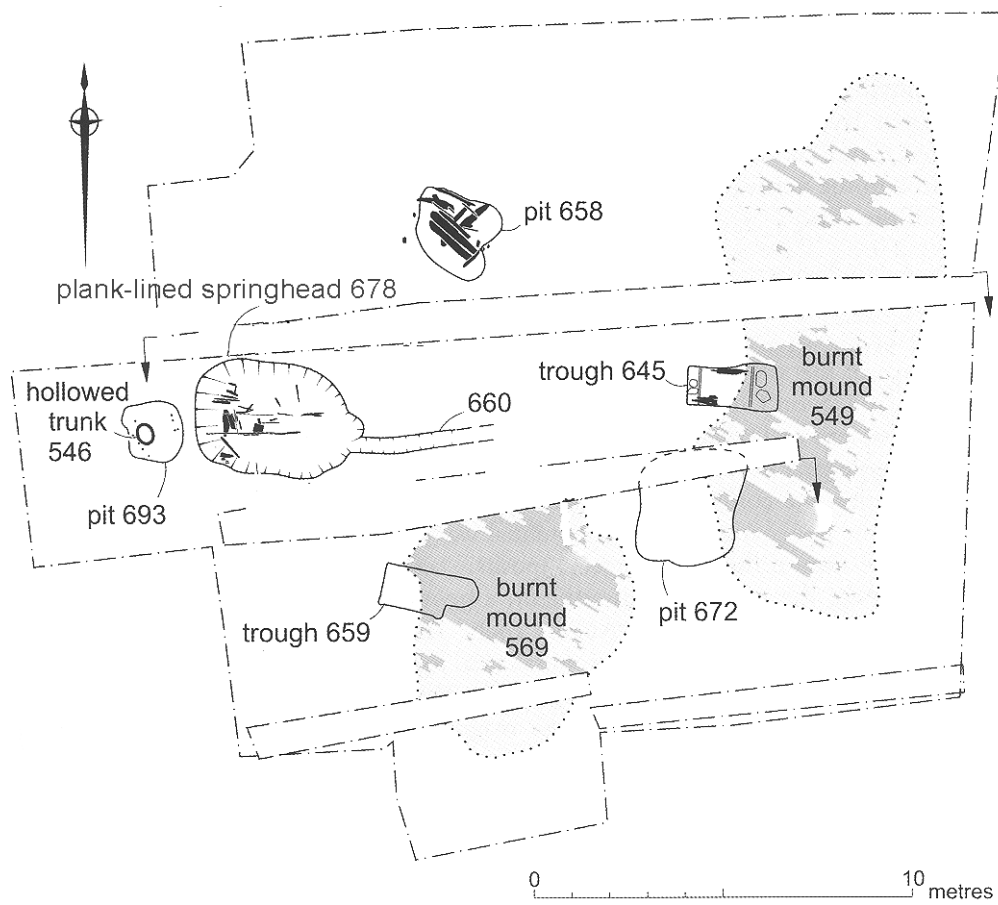


Figure 2(a): Plan and section of trough 659

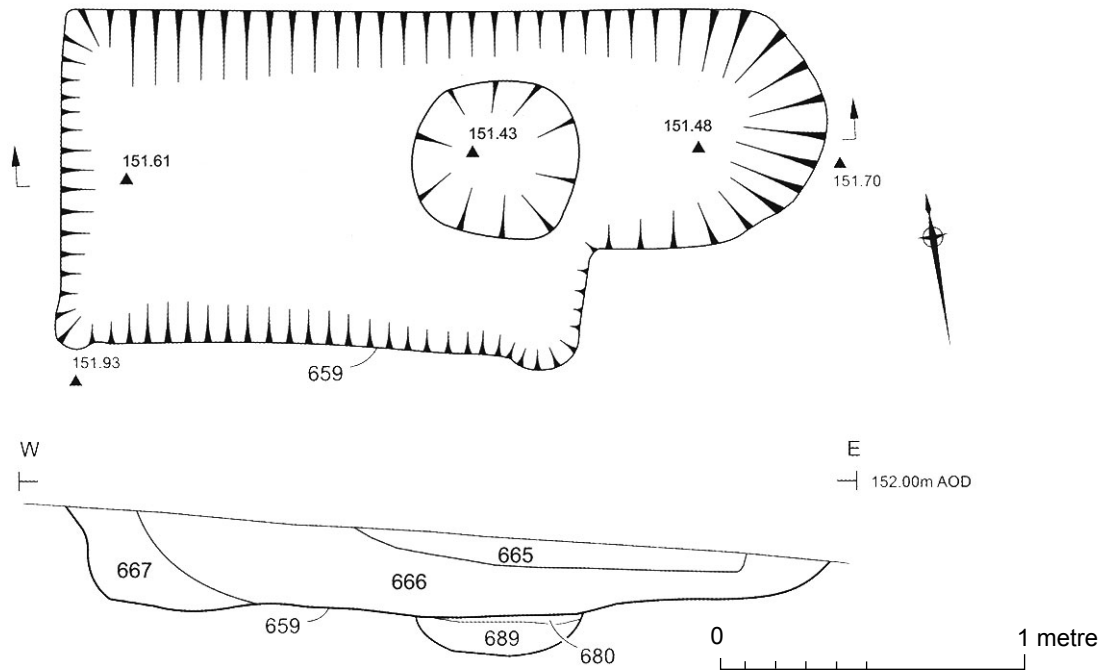
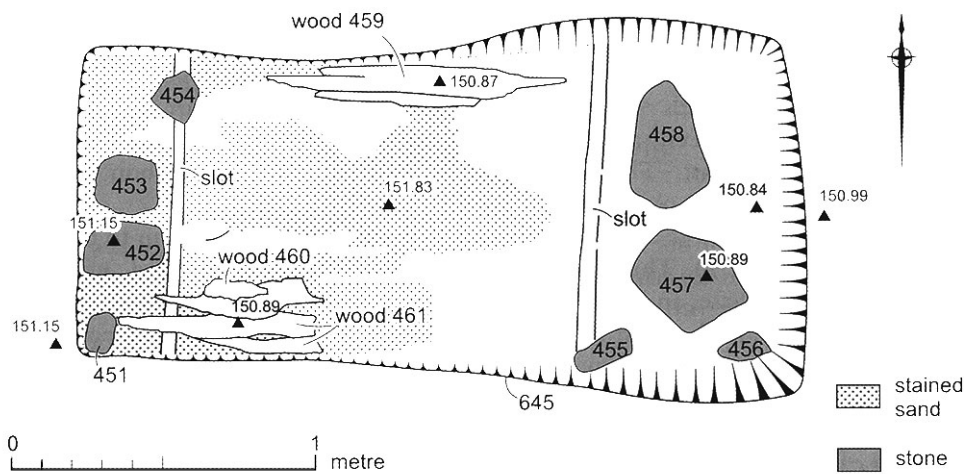


Figure 2(b): Plan of trough 645



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Figure 3: Plan and section A-A of pit 658

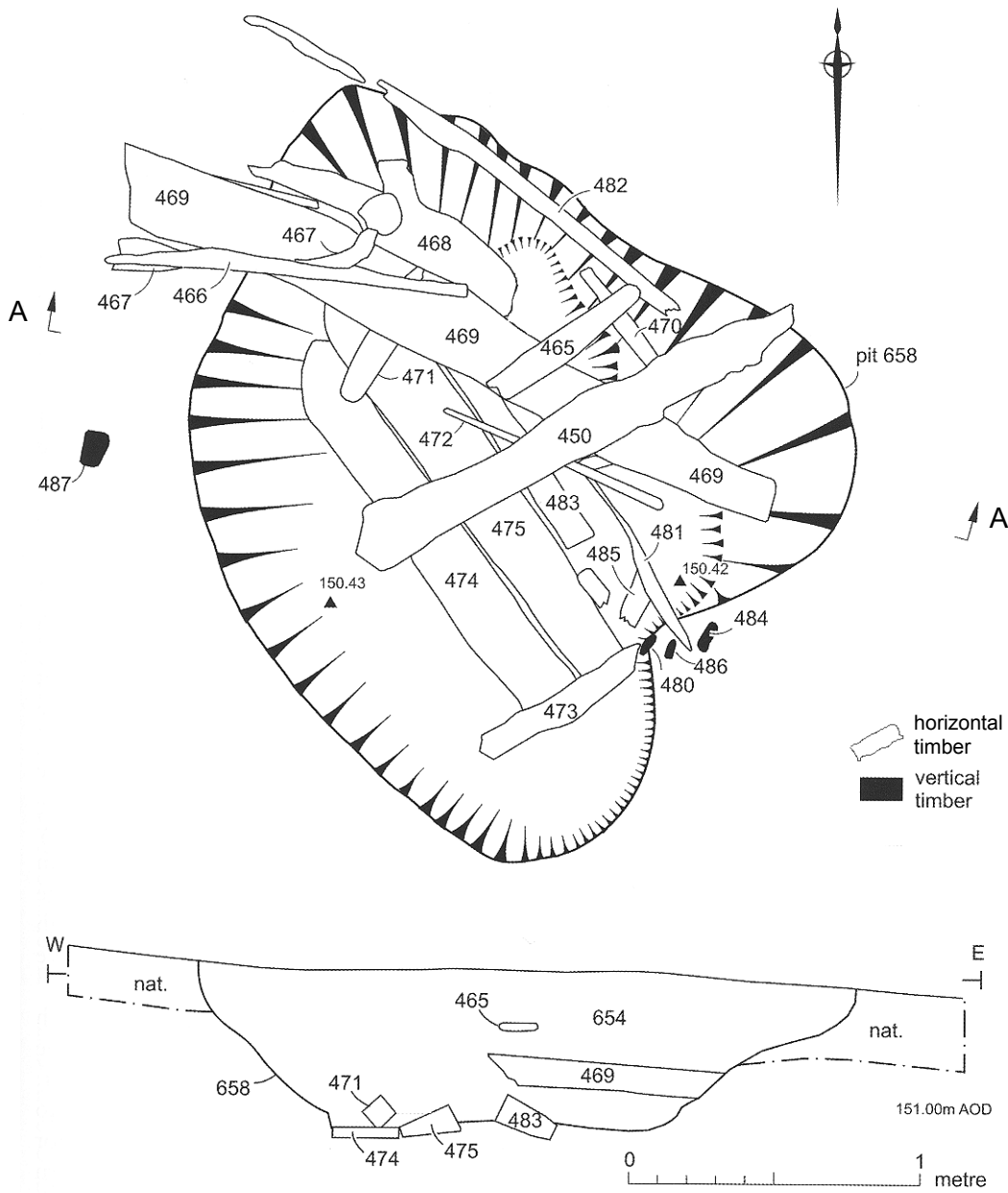
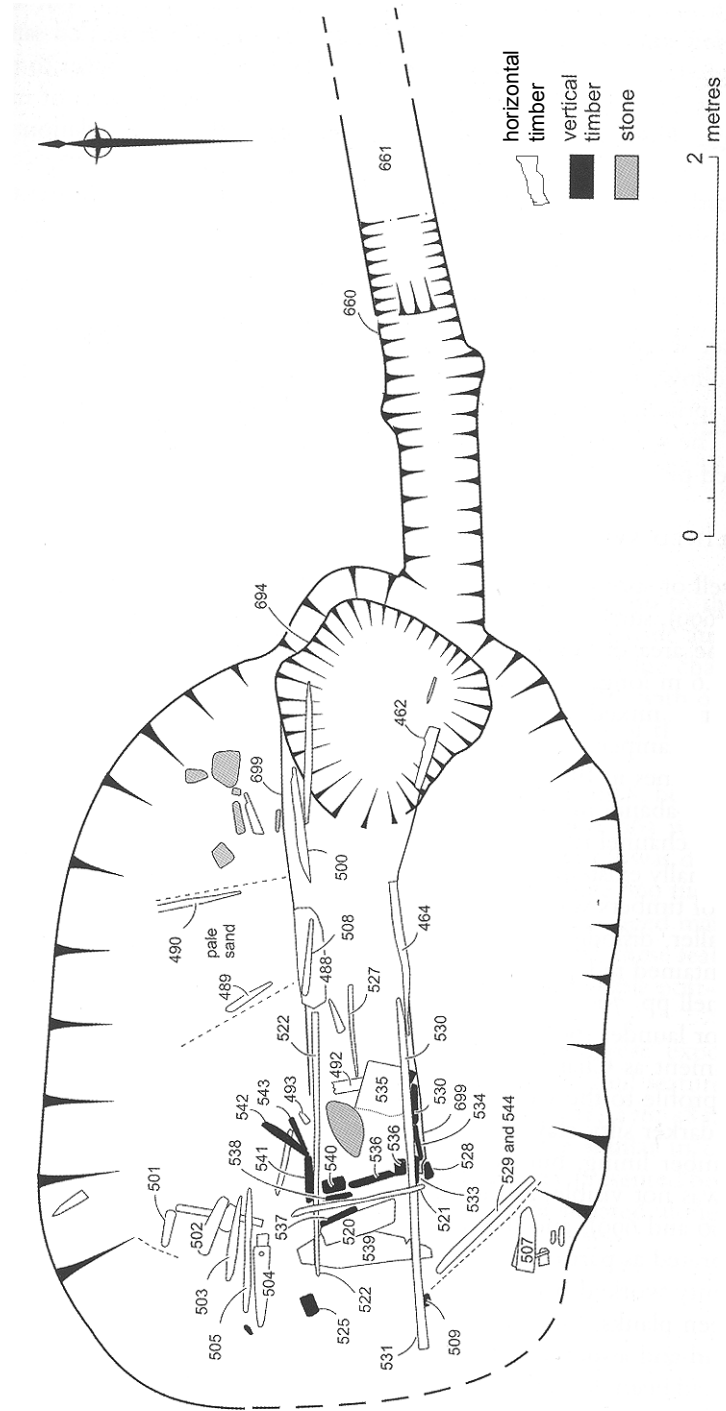


Figure 4: Plan of the plank-lined springhead (feature 678) and associated features



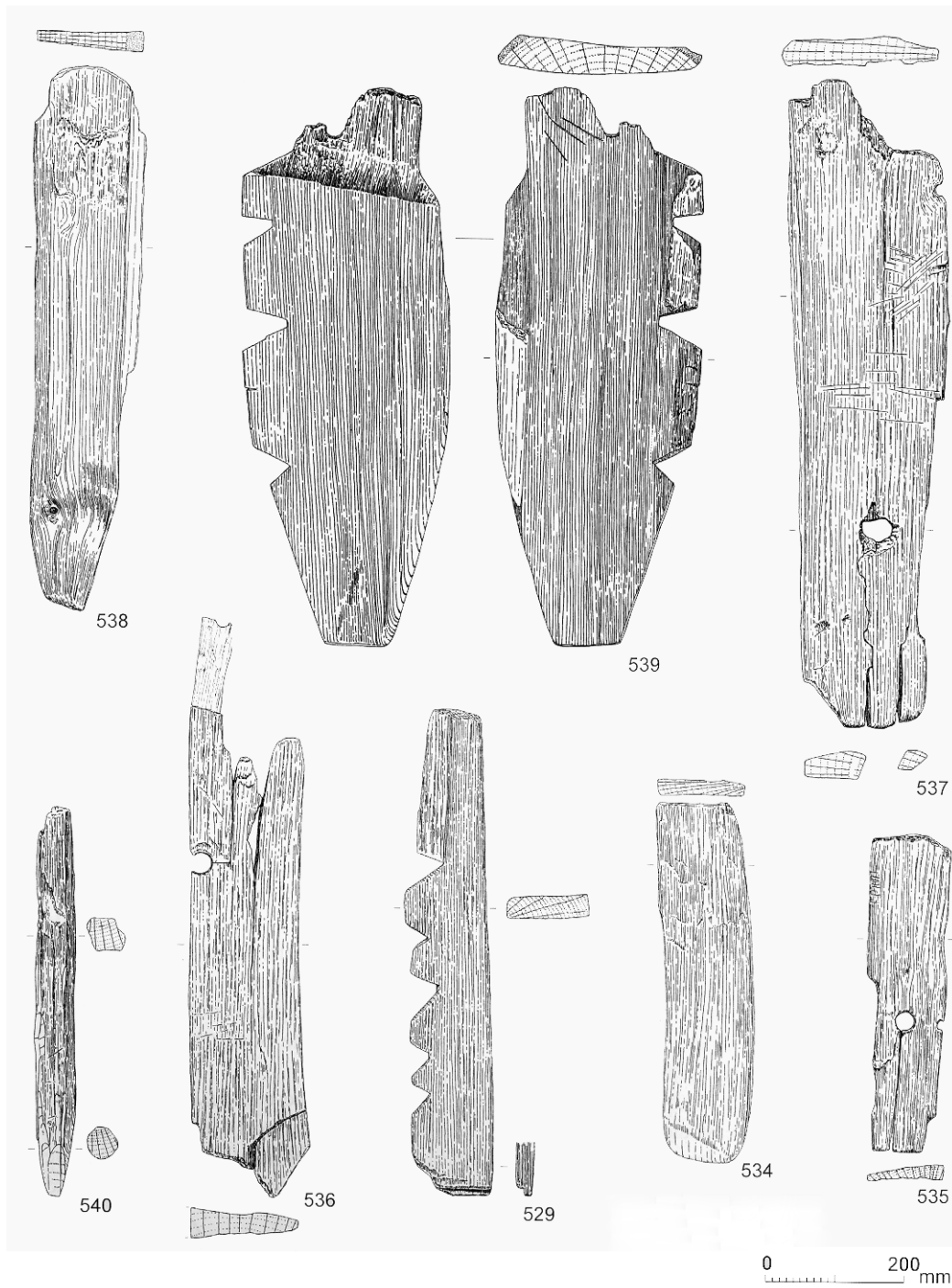
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Figure 5: The plank-lined springhead 678 during excavation, looking east



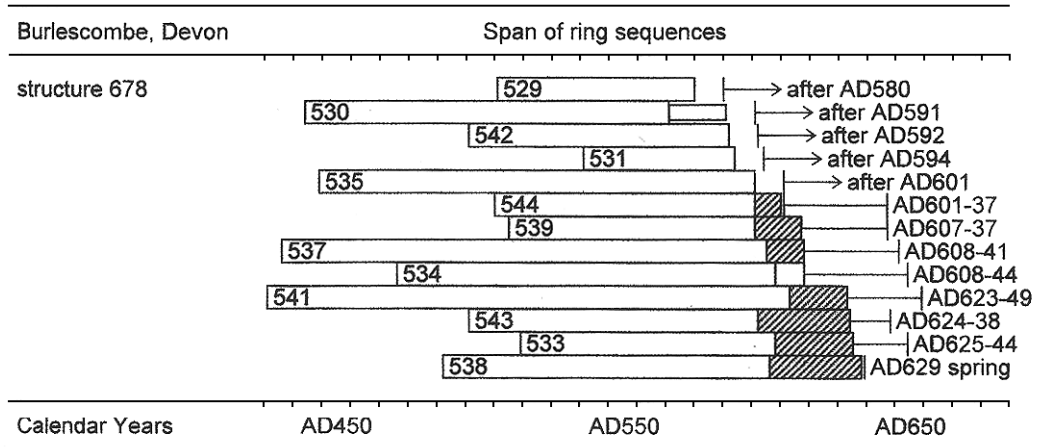
Figure 6: Timbers from the plank-lined springhead 678 and associated features



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Figure 7: Tree ring dates from the plank-lined springhead 678



KEY

White segments of bars are heartwood. Shaded segments are sapwood.

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