

St. Mary's CE Va Primary School,
Portbury, North Somerset

Archaeological Excavation:
Assessment Report and Updated Project Design

Report NSSMR 47144
WESTM: 2005.99



on behalf of

The Board of Governors of
St. Mary's CE Va Primary School
and North Somerset Council

Avon Archaeological Unit

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ST MARY'S CE Va PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHURCH LANE, PORTBURY, NORTH SOMERSET
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION 2005

ASSESSMENT REPORT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

This report sets out the preliminary results of an archaeological excavation exercise undertaken to identify and remove a series of inhumation burials located in the footprint of an extension to St. Mary's CE Va Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset. The work was also designed to fully investigate and record structural features and deposits located alongside the burials.

The report incorporates a summary of the main results of the archaeological fieldwork plus assessment reports and an Updated Project Design, which sets out a final programme of work designed to undertake appropriate analysis and reporting, and the preparation of a published report.

This report is submitted to the Board of Governors of St. Mary's CE Va Primary School, Portbury and North Somerset Council for approval.

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Summary

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken during 2004 and 2005 to mitigate the archaeological impact of the construction of an extension to St. Mary's Church of England Voluntary-aided Primary School in Portbury, North Somerset. The footprint of the extension occupied some 250 square metres of turfed play area to the east of and adjoining the existing school building. Evidence from documentary sources demonstrated that the landscape in and around Portbury enjoyed a long history of occupation extending back into the prehistoric period and included evidence of Romano-British and medieval settlement in the vicinity of the neighbouring parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, itself reputedly constructed on the site of a Saxon minster. The documentary evidence indicated the high archaeological potential of the school site, a factor previously confirmed during the initial construction of the school in 1972, when a group of local amateurs recorded structural features and human burials (NSSMR 02400) during the groundworks. A commemorative plaque attached to the school building describes the remains as a Romano-British cemetery and temple and Saxon temple, dating to the period AD 200-500. This claim may be doubtful however, as the deposits were poorly recorded and not securely dated, and much of the archive has since been lost. The main aim of the project therefore was to identify and characterise all significant buried archaeology preserved within the footprint of the extension to the school. Specific objectives included the recovery of new information with which to clarify the dating for the cemetery as a whole and elucidate human burial practices for the time period indicated.

The project included preliminary documentary research (Etheridge 2004) and archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits (Young 2005a) in advance of area excavation undertaken in July 2005, immediately prior to construction. The excavation exercise identified an initial period of structural activity, involving earthfast timber structures largely represented by postholes and associated with discrete pit groups, which suggested probable settlement related activity occurring on, or in the vicinity of the school site. This was followed by a hiatus in activity indicated by the deposition of a series of soil layers that entirely sealed the postholes and pits and suggested the earlier settlement had been relocated or abandoned. The site subsequently was reoccupied as a cemetery during the final period of activity recorded.

The spatial organisation of the graves on a consistent east to west alignment and the lack of associated grave goods indicated that the inhumations were likely to be early Christian and that the cemetery probably dated to the early post-Roman period. Unfortunately, the excavation exercise yielded a paucity of artefacts from both stratified and unstratified contexts. The finds recovered included a very few sherds of Romano-British and post-medieval pottery and a dozen or so flints, likely to be residual in context. As such, the limited finds assemblages recovered meant that secure dating for the various phases of activity recorded could not be established from the artefactual evidence. This has necessitated the proposed adoption of an alternative dating method, namely Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Radiocarbon Dating of the inhumations, in order to securely date the use of the site as a cemetery and, in turn, provide a *terminus ante quem* for the preceding structural activity.

The assessment stage has demonstrated that aspects of the project justify being carried forward to full analysis and reporting and that the overall results are of sufficient importance to merit publication in a recognised archaeological journal. The general objective of the final stage of analysis and research is to fully elucidate the character and chronology of human activity at St. Mary's School. Accordingly, a further stage of post-excavation work is identified to undertake appropriate detailed analyses as recommended by the various specialists and develop the stratigraphic data, in order to produce an integrated archaeological narrative and published report that synthesises the various stages of research undertaken during the project and incorporates data provided by integration of the limited archival material available from the salvage recording in 1972 and osteological analysis of the 1972 skeletal remains undertaken as an undergraduate dissertation in 2002 (Adams 2002).

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KEY TO THE DRAWINGS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

| | |
|--|--|
|  metres a.O.D |  Clay |
|  Charcoal |  Void |
|  Brick |  Crushed Bone |
|  Asbestos |  Plastic Sheeting |
|  Concrete | |

PART A – INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1 Introduction

1.1 The Board of Governors of St. Mary's CE Va primary school and North Somerset Council commissioned and funded an archaeological excavation undertaken by the Avon Archaeological Unit in advance of the construction of an extension to the school. The extension adjoined the existing school building to the east and was sited on one side of a lawned terrace used as a playing field (NGR ST50287534, **figures 1 and 2**).

1.2 The school is located immediately adjacent to St Mary the Virgin parish church, reputedly constructed on the site of a Saxon minster, and local amateurs recorded several human burials (NSSMR 02400) during the construction of the school in 1972. The burials were identified as part of a more extensive cemetery believed to be of probable Romano-British and post-Roman date, but unfortunately, the work was never published and few records or artefacts survive to confirm the findings. More recent work, including a desk-based study (Etheridge 2004) and watching brief during geotechnical test-pitting (Young 2005a), has identified evidence of significant human activity of prehistoric and historic date in Portbury and its immediate environs, and more specifically, the potential for further graves to be present in the footprint of the extension to the school.

1.3 On the basis of this evidence, it was concluded that further graves and other archaeological features and deposits were likely to be located within the footprint of the school extension. The archaeology was not considered to be of sufficient quality or national importance to justify *preservation in-situ* at the expense of construction of the extension to the school, but, given that human remains probably were present, a programme of archaeological intervention and recording in advance of construction, in order to remove the burials and *preserve by record* the archaeological deposits, was deemed justified. Excavation of the human remains was undertaken under licence from Her Majesty's Government (Home Office Licence A5884) and in accordance with guidelines produced by English Heritage and the Church of England (2005). Part B of this report summarises the results of the excavation fieldwork and the conclusions that can be drawn from the data, and includes a range of specialist assessment reports for the skeletal remains, artefacts and environmental remains recovered. Part C incorporates an Updated Project Design that characterises the various excavated evidence justified in being carried forward to full analysis and reporting, and a timetable and programme of tasks for the production of a final published archaeological report.

1.4 The original Aims and Objectives of the project, as set out in the original Scheme of Work (Young 2005b) were:

1.4.1 Original AIMS

i to fully characterise and record all archaeological deposits and finds preserved within the study area and located during the excavation exercise, recording all such evidence in an integrated and standardised system that will allow the sequence and relationship between archaeological deposits to be reconstructed during the post-excavation stage,

ii to characterise and date all evidence of previous human activity within the study area as located during the excavation and to determine the importance of such evidence in relation to criteria set out by English Heritage in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990),

iii to elucidate the nature of the natural environment in the study area prior to and during previous human activity through an assessment of environmental evidence revealed during the excavation,

iv to determine the character, layout and extent of previous human activity and settlement on the site, specifically the date and character of the human burial practices dating from the Romano-British

period, but also the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. Sufficient excavation will take place to define structural features from other types of archaeology, whilst special attention will be paid to recovering buried human remains and identifying and sampling deposits that have the potential to illuminate the nature of associated funerary practice as well as the wider natural environment,

v to identify archaeological evidence of any type that may elucidate the history of the site in the period between the Roman and later medieval ages, variously termed the Dark Ages or the early medieval period,

vi to define the onset, sequence and chronology of previous human activity on the site and recover evidence to determine the character of that activity, whether it was mixed or specialised in any way,

vii to prepare an appropriate archive for the excavation project fieldwork and produce an illustrated Assessment Report, with specialist analyses where appropriate, and Updated Project Design with recommendations and methodologies to carry the project forward to full analysis, completion and academic publication of the main results,

viii to submit the results of the project and the project archive to the Sites and Monuments Record and North Somerset Museum Service in an appropriate format,

ix to ensure the key results of the excavation work area published in a recognised archaeological journal and made available to the wider archaeological community.

1.4.2 Original OBJECTIVES

i to undertake an archaeological area excavation of the designated area to locate, record and characterise all significant buried archaeological and environmental deposits preserved therein, utilising a combination of machine clearance and standard hand excavation techniques, the former always supervised by a qualified and experienced archaeologist,

ii to describe and record all evidence of significant archaeological stratigraphy and deposits revealed in the excavation area and to recover all human remains, artefacts and samples of suitable material for further assessment, analysis and reporting where appropriate,

iii to identify and record all significant geoarchaeological and environmental stratigraphy and deposits revealed in the trenches and to recover samples of material for further assessment where appropriate, in accordance with English Heritage guidelines,

iv the collation, assessment and synthesis of the collective excavation data, with specialist assessment reports for appropriate materials, and the preparation of a descriptive Assessment Report with supporting catalogues, illustrations etc. for submission to the client, to the Archaeological Officer for North Somerset Council and the North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record (SMR),

v the production of an Updated Project Design (UPD) upon completion of the Assessment Report, which will set out the justification, methodologies, timetable and costs to undertake the final stage of analysis and reporting work necessary to carry the project forward to completion and final academic publication,

vi preparation and indexing of the Project Archive for deposition and longterm curation with North Somerset Museum Service,

vii interpretation of the excavated evidence and integration of such with existing archaeological information for the site and future information gathered during the proposed wider excavation and recording programme.

Figure 1

Site Location 

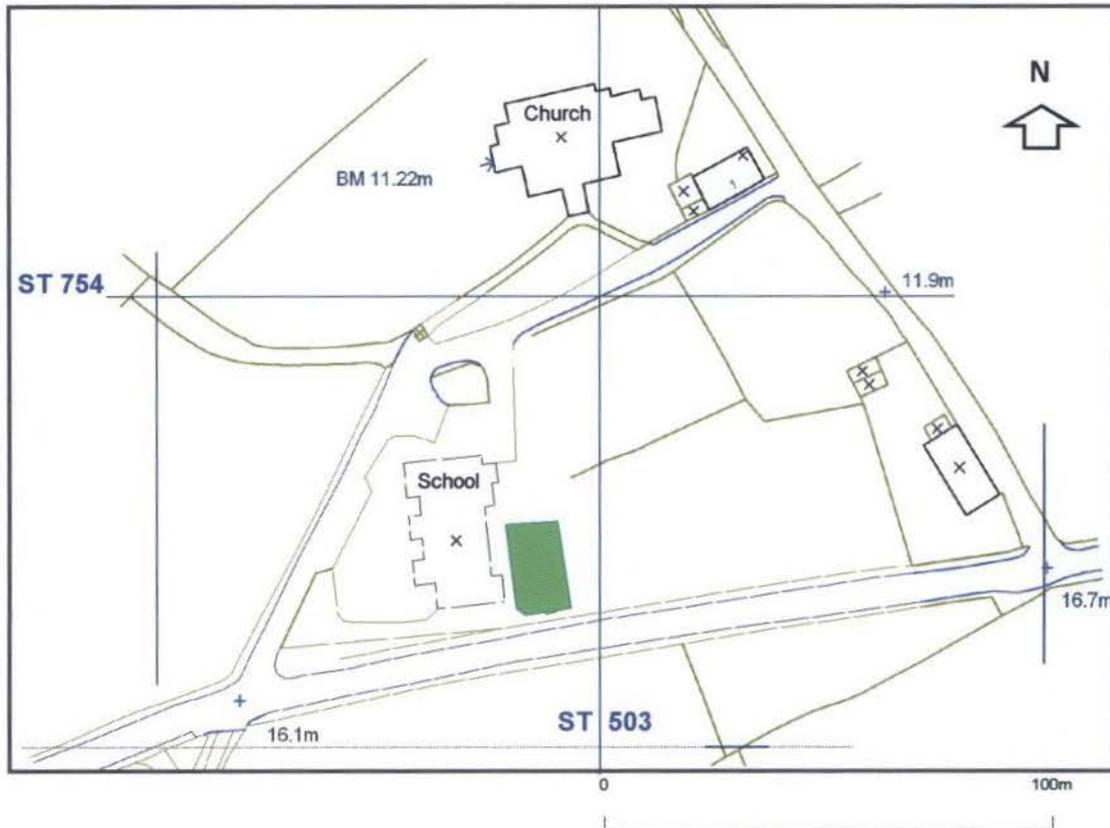
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Scale 1:50,000

Figure 2

Location of the Excavation Area 



PART B – SUMMARY OF RESEARCH AND FIELDWORK

2 Desk-based Assessment (after Etheridge 2004)

A preliminary archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken in August 2004 for the site of St. Mary's CE Va primary school in advance of the proposed construction of the extension to the school building. The assessment revealed extensive evidence of occupation in Portbury and its environs during both the prehistoric and historic periods and indicated the high potential for the preservation of important buried archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and/or medieval date within the development footprint. The dominant prehistoric feature in the landscape is the Iron Age hillfort (NSSMR 00453) atop Conygar Hill to the southwest of the village, whilst the standing stone (NSSMR 01938) recently re-erected on a traffic island outside the school attests to probable Late Neolithic activity in the near vicinity and aerial photographic sources revealed a series of possible ploughed out Bronze Age barrows identified from cropmarks in the field to the immediate south and beyond the High Street.

An extended period of historic occupation at Portbury was indicated by a varied range of evidence, ranging from an artefact scatter (NSSMR 42888) indicating an early Roman settlement to the east of the church and medieval agriculture defined by strip lynchets (NSSMR 00369) on Conygar Hill, to references in Anglo-Saxon charters of endowments of land at Portbury during the 10th century. Indeed, an important settlement at Portbury was most likely well established long before the Conquest, as it was the main settlement in the Hundred of the same name. The status of Portbury in the centuries following the Conquest is less clear, although two medieval documents indicate the Berkeley family resided in the village for a time and attempted to promote the settlement as a thriving market town with weekly market and annual fair. A priory for Augustinian Canons was established at Portbury during the 13th century, but was dissolved in 1536 and the lands passed to the Crown soon after. The status and importance of the settlement gradually waned thereafter and by the mid 19th century much of the land at Portbury had been incorporated into the estates of the Smyth family of Ashton Court. The railway link to Portbury Dock was constructed during the third quarter of the 19th century, but it was not until the second half of the 20th century and the building of the M5 motorway that Portbury underwent significant residential expansion, largely accommodating commuters to the nearby City of Bristol.

St. Mary's primary school is located on the eastern edge of the present day village and is sited on an isolated parcel of land adjacent to the church of the same name and entirely enclosed by the High Street and Church Lane. The school was initially constructed in 1972 and later added to in 1984. It was during the initial construction of the school that the human remains recorded in the North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record (NSSMR 02400) were revealed and rescue excavation undertaken by a group of local amateur archaeologists during the groundworks stage of the development. The 1972 rescue excavations remain unpublished save for a brief reference in Rogers and Ponsford (1979), which describes a Romano-British cemetery in Portbury, some of the burials being furnished with grave goods, destroyed in 1972 during the construction of a school adjacent to the church. Interestingly, no mention is made of the purported Romano-British and Saxon temples located alongside the burials during the 1972 excavations and mentioned on the commemorative plaque attached to the school building. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of much of the archive for the 1972 excavations is not known, save for three boxes of human bone held by Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery (BRSMG 153/1977). More recently, further human bone from the excavation formerly retained in private hands, was donated to the University of Bristol in 2000, but few documentary records have been found. The skeletal material was examined for a recent University of Bristol undergraduate dissertation (Adams 2002), but provided only limited osteological information for the population as a whole, as the archive was not identified by context and bone from individual skeletons appeared to have been mixed.

3 Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits

Two geotechnical test pits were excavated in March 2005 within the footprint of the extension to the school prior to construction and were monitored archaeologically (Young 2005a). The first test pit (Test Pit 1) revealed a uniform sequence of sandy silt soil deposits overlying the natural substrate of weathered limestone gravels, whilst two linear cut features, possibly further graves, were located < 1 m below the modern ground surface within the second test pit (Test Pit 2). No dating evidence was recovered from the test pits or archaeological features, which were left in-situ and the test pits reinstated after recording.

4 Area Excavation

Figures 3-6: Plates 1-7 and cover

An open area excavation (**figure 3**) encompassing some 250 square metres was undertaken over a period of four weeks commencing on July 11th, 2005. Due to the extreme paucity of artefacts or other dating evidence recovered during the excavation, and excepting obviously modern activity (discussed separately as *Period II*), the archaeology recorded can be subdivided into only three broad phases of activity (*Period I*) on the basis of stratigraphic relationships alone and, as yet, no positive identification of the time period or periods during which that activity took place can be made. As a result, it is the intention of the author of this report to request funding for the AMS radiocarbon dating of a number of the skeletons excavated. The independent dating of the human burials, which appear to conform to a single, late phase of activity on the site, would provide a *terminus ante quem* for the archaeology recorded. This is particularly important as the alignment and apparent spatial organisation of the graves recorded is indicative of a possible Early Christian date for the cemetery, supporting the dating to the 4th-6th centuries AD of the burials recorded in 1972 during the construction of the school and predating the Saxon minster that reputedly once stood on the adjacent site of St. Mary the Virgin parish church.

4.1 *Period I; Undated Phase I.1*

The earliest activity recorded on the site was represented by a series of cut features, comprising largely postholes and a small number of pits, predominantly located in the west and north of the excavation area where they cut the natural substrate (Conglomerate Gravels 110) or overlying silty sand soil (Layer 104/175). The majority of the postholes occurred as a series of clusters rather than as discrete alignments, but for a curvilinear arrangement, possibly a fenceline (Cuts 505, 507, 511, 513 and 521) crossing the north of the excavation area. The features yielded little or no dating evidence and were allocated to the earliest phase of activity on the basis of stratigraphy alone, although some intercutting pits were recorded and the fenceline had been constructed over a series of infilled pits (Pit Group 1). This suggested that the cut features recorded probably represented a number of discrete sub-phases of activity.

The pits mainly occurred as two discrete groups, one each located in the north and southwest of the excavation area (Pit Groups 1 and 2 respectively.) Pit Group 1 comprised five intercutting pits of varying size (Cuts 192, 194, 529, 531 and 533), which cut Layer 104 at a depth of between c. 300 mm and 500 mm. No function was determined for the pits, one of which (Cut 529) subsequently was truncated by Posthole 505 incorporated in the fenceline crossing the north of the site. The southwestern pit group (Pit Group 2, **plate 1**) comprised four intercutting pits (Cuts 154, 111, 113 and 133) arranged on an approximate north-south alignment and truncated by subsequent modern activity (*Period II*, Drain 107 and Geotechnical Test Pit 131). The pits were each roughly oval in plan, but varied in size. Three of the pits (Cuts 154, 113 and 133) were relatively deep features, cutting the gravel substrate (110) at depths of between 500 mm and 790 mm, whilst the fourth (Cut 111) was very shallow (maximum depth 120 mm).

4.2 *Period I; Undated Phase I.2*

A series of soil layers (Contexts 105 158/185, 143, 186 and 187) were deposited at various locations over the excavation area during the second phase of activity (*Phase I.2*). The layers sealed the *Phase I.1* cut features and some (Deposits 143, 186 and 187) were cut by a number of graves recorded during the final phase of activity (*Phase I.3*).

4.3 *Period I; Undated Phase I.3*

The remains of some fifteen human burials (Sk1.-Sk15.) in all were recorded during the latest phase of archaeological activity. Of these, nine comprised complete or partial articulated skeletons (Sk3.-Sk9., Sk12. and Sk14.) and the remainder (Sk1., Sk2., Sk10., Sk11., Sk13. and Sk15.), disarticulated remnants redeposited in grave fills, or in the case of skeletons Sk1. and Sk2., redeposited in a modern cutting backfilled during landscaping after the initial construction of the school. The overall bone preservation was poor, although some variation in condition between individual skeletons was observed.

The burials were largely grouped at two discrete locations within the excavation area, in the west and south of the site, with a single isolated burial (Sk14.) also located on the southern boundary. The articulated skeletons were fully extended inhumations orientated roughly east to west and with the head to the west. It was evident from the western grouping that the cemetery was planned, as the graves had been formally organised in rows, with the gaps between burial groups possibly indicating unused plots. The lack of associated grave goods and the consistency in alignment and spatial organisation of the graves indicated that the burials formed part of an Early Christian cemetery of probable late Roman or sub-Roman date. This corresponds well with the suggested dating for the burials recorded during the earlier (1972) rescue excavation.

Four graves (**plate 6**) were recorded in the western grouping, three of which (Cuts 146, 148 and 150) were arranged adjacent in a row aligned north to south and the fourth (Cut 149), sited alone to the immediate east. Grave Cuts 146 and 150 had been partly destroyed during construction work on the school, truncating the skeletons (Sk5. and Sk9.) contained therein and leaving only leg and foot bones in-situ. The western end of the adjacent grave (Cut 148) had also been disturbed during the construction works, when the right arm and much of the skull was removed from the interred skeleton (Sk8.). The torso and pelvis also exhibited signs of extensive damage, having been crushed and flattened in-situ, as though compressed by a heavy load. In contrast, the fourth grave (Cut 149) located to the immediate east was not obviously disturbed during the construction of the school and revealed an intact inhumation (Sk6., **plate 7**), the displacement of the lower jaw and some ribs of the skeleton probably resulting from natural processes (root or animal disturbance). Initial assessment of the skeletal remains identified a single adolescent (Sk6.) and three adults in the group, although sex was not determined.

Four inhumations were also recorded within the southern burial grouping, three of which (Sk3., Sk7. and Sk12.) were, somewhat unusually for a proposed Christian cemetery, interred in a single grave (Cut 160, **figure 4 and plates 4-5**). The fourth grave (Cut 139) was sited adjacent and to the north and contained a single extended inhumation (Sk4.). Of the three skeletons interred as a group, Sk3. and Sk12. were deposited in the base of the grave and faced inwards, towards one another. Indeed, the right leg of Sk3. was flexed over the contracted left leg of Sk12. indicating the latter was the first to be interred. Sk7. was deposited over both Sk3. and Sk12. with head facing to the north (towards Sk3.) and right arm extended behind and over Sk12. Of interest is an apparent wound to the right tibia of Sk12. determined as a post-mortem injury during the initial specialist assessment of the skeleton group and possibly inflicted during the reopening of the grave, whilst the bone was still soft (green). It was suggested that Sk3. and Sk12., identified as two adult males, were interred together for an indeterminate time prior to the deposition of Sk7., an adolescent in his/her mid teens. The relaxed open posture of the individuals in the triple burial contrasted sharply with the rigid positioning of the

fourth skeleton (Sk4.) in the group, a mature adult male interred in the adjacent grave (Cut 139). The positioning of the limbs suggested the body might have been wrapped in a shroud when buried, as the legs and feet were close together and the arms tightly folded against the chest, both hands resting on the left shoulder.

The final interment recorded during the excavation was that of a child aged between two and six years (Sk14.) buried in a small grave (Cut 161) sited some 3.5 m to the west of the southern burial grouping. The grave had been disturbed during the cutting of a modern drainage trench, at which time much of the skull was removed. The remainder of the in-situ skeletal material was poorly preserved and some bones had been displaced by subsequent root or animal activity.

Evidence of structural activity associated with the burials was provided by only a single posthole (Cut 151) located adjacent to the eastern baulk in the extreme southeast of the excavation area. The posthole had been cut through the same soil layer (Deposit 143), into which Graves 139 and 160 had been cut. It (Posthole 151) was roughly circular in plan with a deep cylindrical profile and was partly filled with sandstone rubble (153) used as packing around the post. Much of the packing remained in-situ after the decay or removal of the post, the resulting void (or post-pipe) having silted up thereafter (Fill 152).

4.4 *Period II; Modern Phase II.1*

One side of an extensive modern cutting (Feature 500) with irregular edge was exposed in the west of the excavation area. The cutting was excavated when the site was terraced as part of the groundworks for the construction of the school in 1972 and was backfilled with mixed soil and construction debris (including some asbestos) when the immediate surroundings were landscaped upon completion of the building. Cutting 500 partly destroyed a row of three graves (Cuts 146, 148 and 150), truncating the interred skeletons (Sk5., Sk8. and Sk9.), and was in turn cut by a broad drainage trench (Feature 108) leading from the school building and feeding into an adjacent soakaway (106). A further two drainage trenches (Features 107 and 109) also fed into Soakaway 106, the former damaging the isolated child burial (Grave Cut 161, Sk14.) recorded in the south of the excavation area. Other modern features included two isolated postholes (Cuts 196 and 515) one each located in the west and south of the site, the latter feature truncating the edge of the *Period I.3* multiple burial (Grave Cut 160).

4.5 *Period II; Modern Phase II.2*

One of the two recently investigated geotechnical test pits (Young 2005a) was identified in the southwest of the excavation area, and recorded as Cutting 131. The second test pit was situated under the soil ramp used for access in the northeast corner of the site and was not further recorded.

5 **Summary and Assessment of the Finds**

5.1 *Human Bone* Appendix 1 by Malin Holst

Osteological specialist Malin Holst assessed the skeletal remains of up to fifteen individuals recovered during the excavation, in order to determine age, sex and manifestations of disease and/or trauma. The overall condition of the bone was poor and none of the individuals were complete. In three cases, it was possible to determine age and sex (adult males), whilst a further five skeletons were recognised as adults of indeterminate sex. The remains of three children were also identified, two adolescents in their middle teens and one juvenile of two to six years. Some pathological traits were also noted amongst the population. An inflammatory lesion on the right tibia of Skeleton 8, an adult of

indeterminate sex, indicated infectious disease and Skeleton 12 exhibited damage to the intervertebral discs, possibly from repeated heavy lifting.

Further full analysis of the skeletal material is recommended, particularly as sub-Roman cemeteries are rare in the southwest region, and the skeletons should be radiocarbon dated in order to confirm the dating. Although the bone preservation is poor, the rarity and thereby potential importance of the assemblage merits detailed study in order to more closely determine the age and sex of the individuals and recover all pathological information. Dietary information should be researched using stable isotope analysis and further documentary research should be undertaken in order to identify comparable cemetery sites and place the results in the wider archaeological and historical context.

Integration into the final analysis report of the osteological data on the skeletal material recovered during the earlier (1972) excavations compiled for an undergraduate dissertation (Adams 2002) is also recommended.

5.2 *Flint*

Appendix 2 by Peter Makey

A small collection of eighteen flints and one fragment of chert were recovered during the excavation. Thirteen prehistoric worked flints were identified, whilst the remainder (and the chert) comprised unworked, naturally occurring fragments. The collection was unstratified or residual in context, but the lack of edge attrition indicated it was in a fresh state and that it may well have been derived from prehistoric features in the near vicinity. The worked flint assemblage probably represented 2 or 3 phases of activity spanning the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods and included a Bronze Age end scraper (SF No. 208) and Neolithic forms such as SF No. 202, an edge retouched bladelet and SF No. 203, a scraper subsequently reused as a core. The flint was identified and catalogued during specialist assessment by Peter Makey, but no further detailed analysis is recommended due to the small size of the assemblage.

5.3 *Pottery*

Appendix 3 by Dr. Jane Timby

A very small assemblage of twenty-eight pottery sherds, with a total weight of 270g was recovered during the excavation. The majority of the sherds, some twenty-six in total, were recovered from unstratified contexts and include two sherds of residual medieval pottery amongst assorted post-medieval types of post-18th century date. Interestingly, a single post-medieval sherd in a fine redware fabric was recovered still attached to a fragment of broken coarseware mould (SF No. 200), which may be indicative of a manufacturing site nearby.

Two sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 2nd-4th centuries were retrieved, one each from Grave Fills 132 and 138 sealing Skeletons 5 and 9 respectively.

The assemblage has undergone specialist assessment by Dr. Jane Timby, who recommends that no further analysis be undertaken.

5.4 *Plant Macrofossils*

Appendix 4 by Kath Hunter

Bulk soil samples of the grave fills were collected during the excavation of the skeletons as required by the English Heritage and Church of England guidelines (2005). The samples were processed initially for the retrieval of small bones and the resulting flots submitted for specialist assessment for environmental indicators.

Eight samples were selected for initial assessment by Kath Hunter, each of which contained a few cereal grain remains and some, charred seeds from arable weeds such as Stinking Chamomile, and

from Sedges, plants associated with a damp environment. The grains were however considered likely to be residual in the grave fills rather than deliberate burial deposits, as no concentrations of charred seeds were noted during excavation. The remains are of limited potential therefore and no further analysis of the assemblage is recommended.

5.5 *Other Finds*

Very small collections of other find types were also retrieved during the excavation exercise. The finds were not submitted for specialist assessment as they were largely recovered from unstratified contexts and were generally too few in number to provide meaningful data. The finds included five fragments of animal bone weighing some 14g and two stone objects; an unstratified micaceous sandstone tessera and a fragment of conglomerate with a smoothed face, possibly part of a Romano-British quern stone (SF No. 209) recovered from the (disturbed) fill sealing Skeleton 9 (Fill 138). Ten post-medieval glass shards weighing some 76g were also retrieved, including a rim shard from a white vessel and body shard from a colourless, textured glass bottle. An intrusive fragment of window glass (SF No. 204) was also recovered from Grave Fill 135 sealing Skeleton 6 and the silted fill (515) of Posthole 515 yielded a fragment of plain clay tobacco pipe bowl. Other finds included a heavily corroded iron nail and fragments of metallic slag, as well as small quantities of brick and tile recovered from the topsoil.

Figure 4

Plan of the Multiple Burial in Grave Cut 160

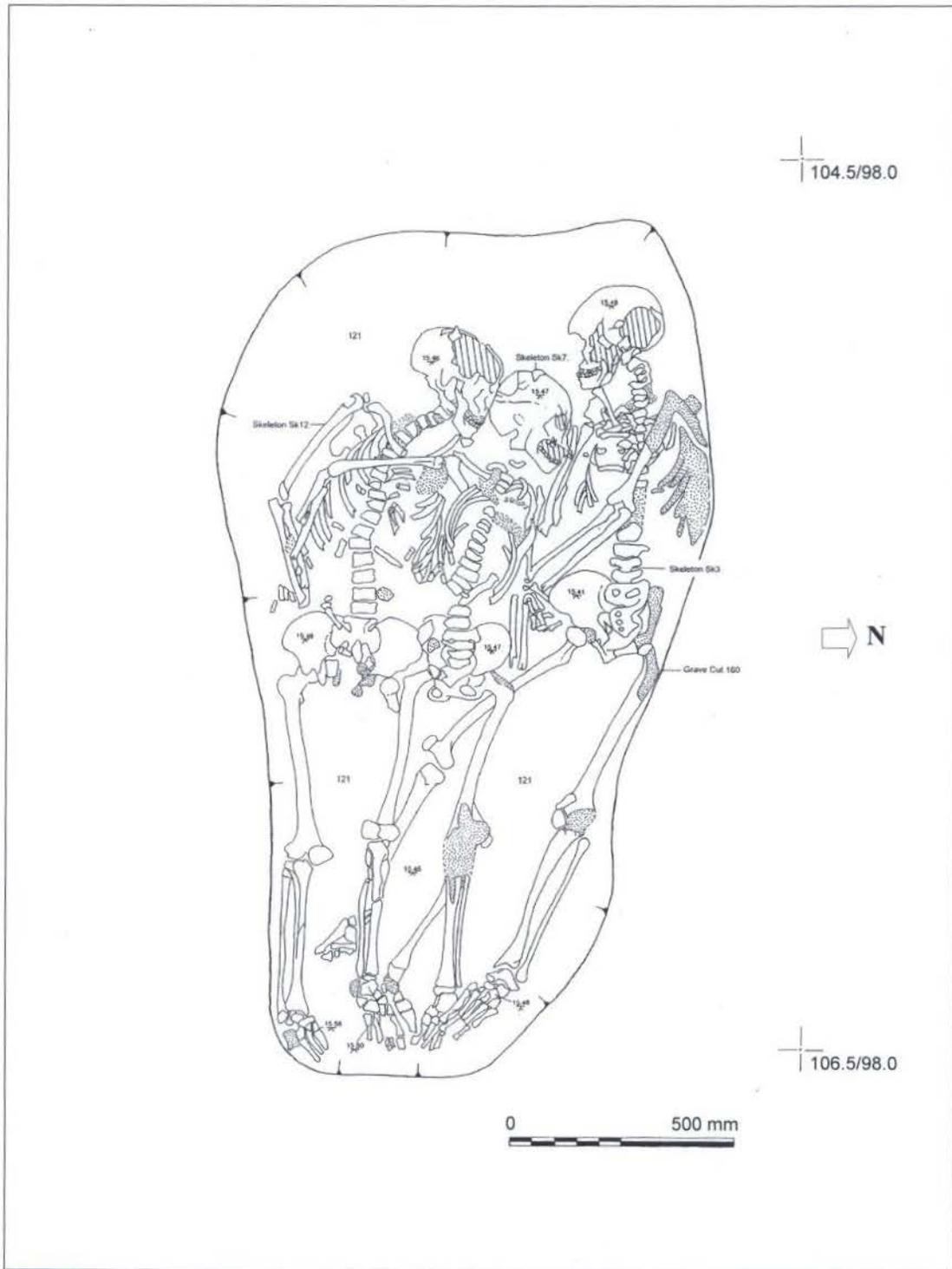


Figure 5

Profiles of Selected Archaeological Features recorded during the excavation

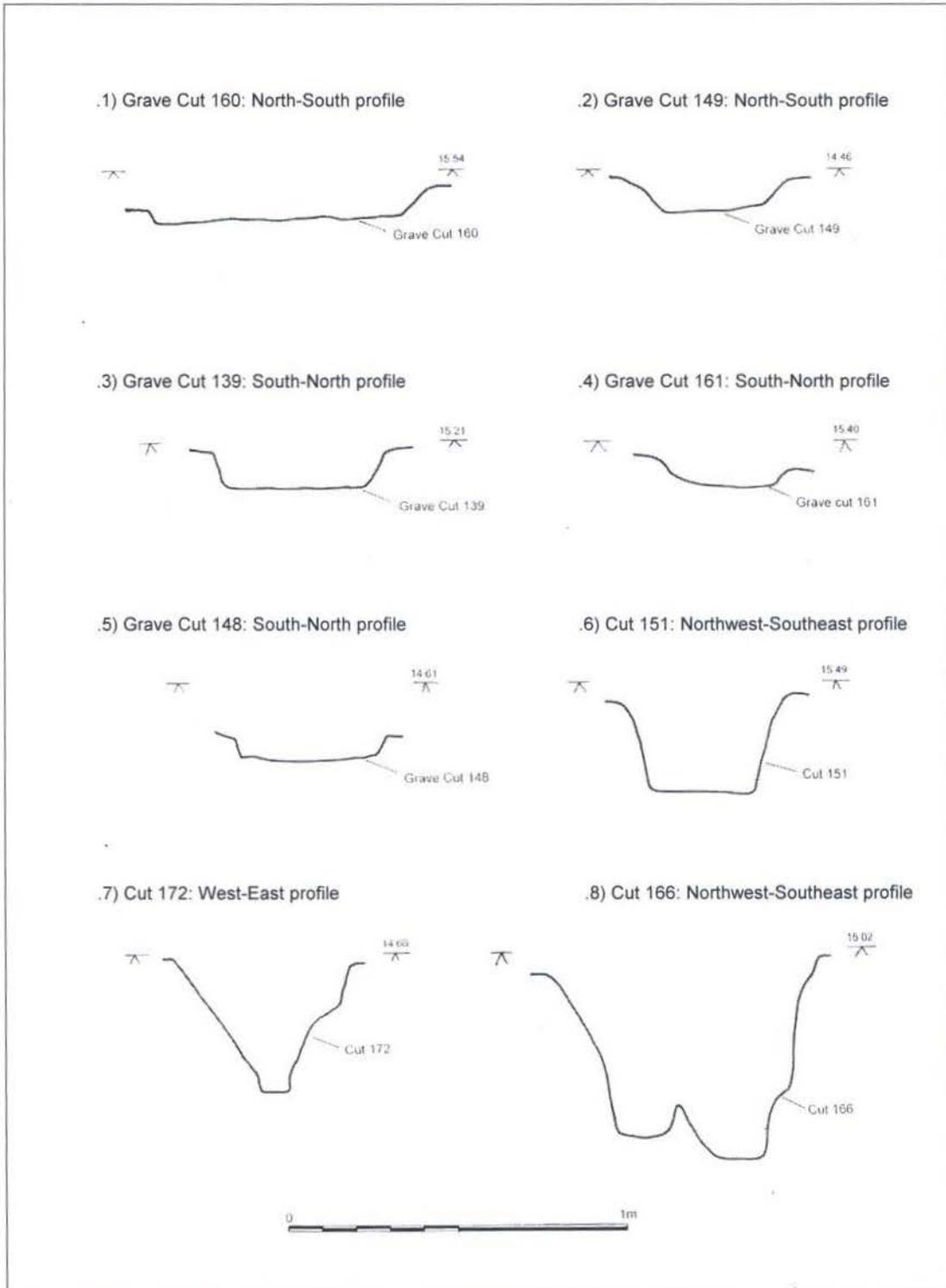
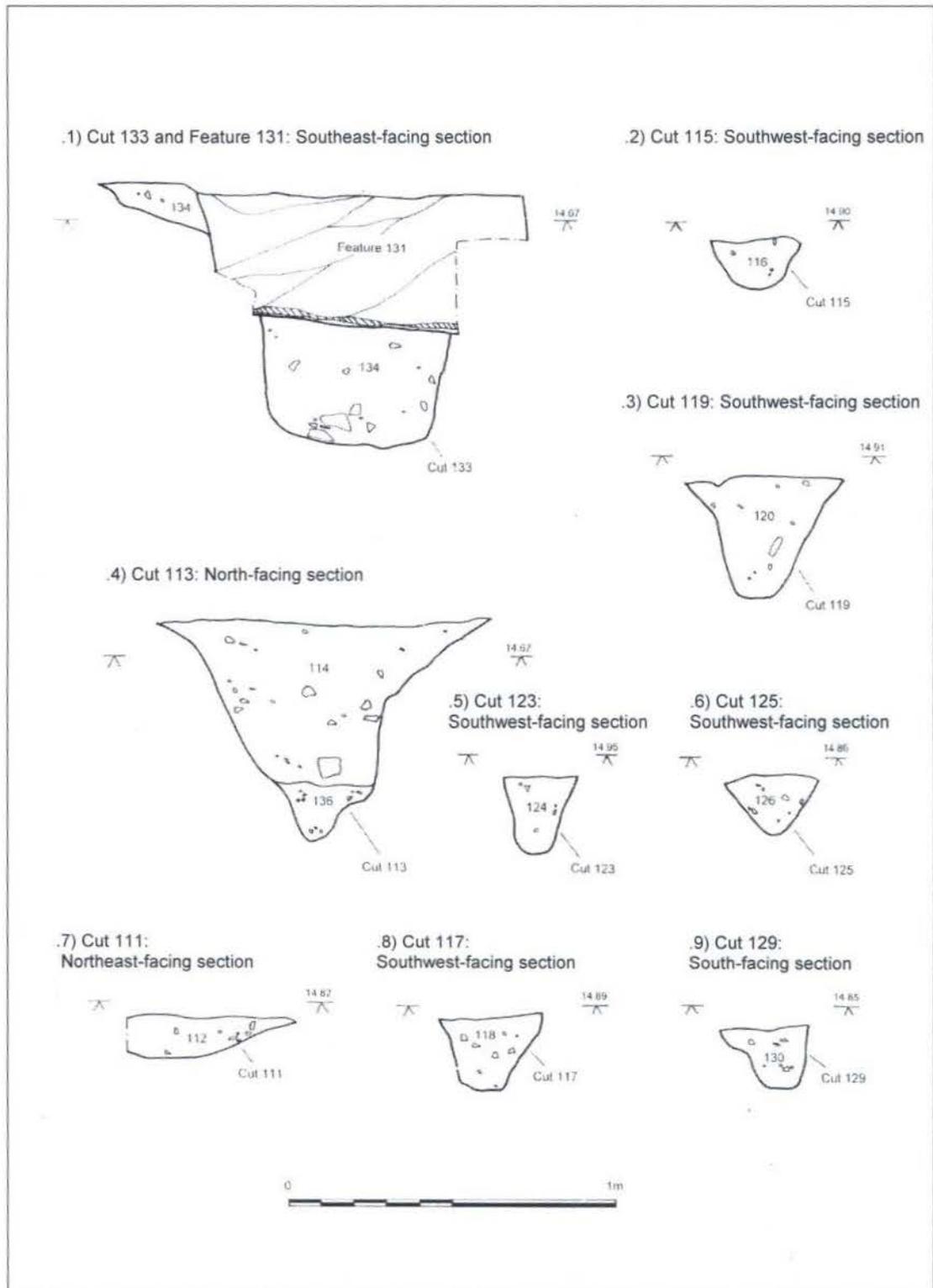


Figure 6

Section Drawings of Selected Archaeological Features recorded during the excavation



PART C – UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

6 Statement Of Potential

The various stages of archaeological research and fieldwork at St. Mary's CE Va primary school have recovered a body of new data that has the potential to significantly improve our understanding of the development, chronology and character of past human settlement and burial rites during the early historic period at Portbury. The evidence has the potential to provide definitive dating for the cemetery and to clarify our understanding of the previously recorded (1972) burial activity at the school site. Further, it has the potential to add significantly to our understanding of post-Roman burial practices, both within Somerset and the wider southwest region, as it forms part of only a small corpus of known cemetery sites of this period.

Of primary importance therefore, is the need to establish a secure chronology for the activity recorded during the current excavation, as a paucity of finds meant that dating could not be ascertained from the artefactual evidence alone. Independent dating of the burials by means of a suite of nine AMS radiocarbon determinations is proposed, which will enable the funerary activity to be closely dated.

Independent dating of the funerary activity will also provide a *terminus ante quem* for the preceding phase of structural activity recorded during the current excavation. The structural activity predates the cemetery and has the potential to extend the known origins of the village back into the Romano-British or sub-Roman periods. That a locally important settlement at Portbury, which gave its name to the parish and Hundred, was established by the Saxon period is indicated from Saxon Charters and relict features in the landscape such as the adjacent Saxon D-shaped enclosure, possibly the site of a Saxon minster upon which the late medieval parish church of St. Mary the Virgin was later founded.

7 Future Aims and Objectives

7.1 AIMS

The main AIMS of the proposed further work are:

- i to complete the archive for the project in accordance with English Heritage 1991 guidelines
- ii to commission appropriate full specialist analysis reports and digest reports, which describe and interpret the skeletal material (including integration of osteological data from analysis of the earlier 1972 skeletal material), flints and environmental data located during the fieldwork stage, for inclusion in the published report
- iii to commission nine AMS radiocarbon determinations of selected skeletons in order to determine the date of the burials and period of usage of the burial ground
- iv to produce a descriptive narrative report which describes and discusses the archaeological evidence recorded during the course of the project and to synthesise the various types of evidence gathered and interpret the data in site specific and wider regional terms in a written and fully illustrated report for publication in a recognised archaeological journal.
- v to deposit the project archive with the appropriate recipient museum for longterm curation and storage

7.2 OBJECTIVES

The specific OBJECTIVES are:

- i to produce an indexed, cross-referenced and internally consistent project archive for deposition and longterm curation with North Somerset Museum Service, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare
- ii to undertake detailed specialist analyses and digest reports as recommended by the assessment stage for inclusion in the project archive and published report, which will focus on the site-specific implications concerning the chronology and character of the activity represented and will also seek to relate the data with published evidence from other similar sites in the wider region
- iii to undertake full analysis and interpretation of the structural and stratigraphic evidence recorded during the excavation exercise for inclusion with appropriate illustrations and tables in the published report
- iv to produce a descriptive and fully illustrated summary digest report for submission to the editor of the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*, which sets out the background to the project and the main results incorporating the results of the specialist analyses listed above.
- v arrangement for the deposition of the project archive for longterm curation and storage with North Somerset Museum Service and deposition of copies of the project report with North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record.

8 Deposition Of The Project Archive

The project archive, which includes all site records, drawings, photographs and artefacts, will be temporarily stored at the premises of the Avon Archaeological Unit, Avondale Business Centre, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AW, prior to final deposition with North Somerset Museum Service, Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare upon completion of the project. Copies of all the written archive will be deposited with North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record at that time. Arrangements will also be made with the vicar of St. Mary the Virgin's Church at Portbury for the reburial of the skeletons recovered during the excavation work upon completion of the project.

9 Publication

It is proposed that the key results of the project will be set out in the publication report for submission to the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society* subject to the approval of the Board of Governors for St Mary's school and North Somerset Council.

The published report will be descriptive, setting out the background to the project, as well as the results and implications of the research. The data will be supplemented with information provided by documentary research and appropriate specialist reporting, and will consider and compare the data with other relevant archaeological sites in the wider region.

10 Proposed Future Work

10.1 METHODS STATEMENT

The AIMS and OBJECTIVES of further work have been outlined in Section 7 above. The tasks identified below will need to be undertaken in order to achieve the stated objectives. The proposed timetable and programme for the list of tasks is set out in Appendix 6 below.

10.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSED TASKS

10.2.1 **Task 1 – Specialist Full Analysis and Summary Reports**

This requires the commissioning of full analysis and summary reports from appropriate specialists as outlined in Section 5 above. A full analysis report will be undertaken for the human bone (**Dr Malin Holst**) and summary reports for compiled for the pottery (**Jane Timby**), flint (**Peter Makey**) and plant macrofossils (**Kath Hunter**). A suite of AMS radiocarbon determinations will be commissioned from the Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory in New Zealand in order to provide independent dating and samples submitted for stable isotope analysis. The specialist reports will contain appropriate illustrations and tables and be geared for inclusion in the published report.

10.2.2 **Task 2 – Introduction and Background to the project - AAU**

Preparation of an illustrated text outlining the site, its topography and geology, the background to the project, as well as the archaeological setting of the site and an overview of the results of the documentary research and collation of artefacts.

10.2.3 **Task 3 – Area Excavation Fieldwork - AAU**

Preparation of an illustrated text setting out the methodology and stratigraphic and structural results of the project and including an archaeological interpretation of the excavated evidence.

10.2.4 **Task 4 – Report Illustrations - AAU**

Preparation of appropriate location plans, excavation plans, section drawings and other illustrations that support the body of the published report and including a plan relating the 2005 excavation results with the 1972 data. This will also include the selection of suitable photographs and preparation of appropriate tables and catalogues.

10.2.5 **Task 5 – Finds Illustrations - Mrs Davina Ware**

Preparation of selected finds illustrations including flint and small finds recovered during the excavation, as recommended by the finds specialists.

10.2.6 **Task 6 – Discussion, Synthesis and Conclusions - AAU**

Preparation of a discursive text that integrates the archaeological and environmental evidence and discusses the specific site implications of the data and how that data agrees or disagrees with similar sites in the wider region.

10.2.7 **Task 7 – Collation, Cross-referencing and Indexing of the Project Archive - AAU**

Checking, cross-referencing and indexing the various elements of the project archive in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) in preparation for final deposition with North Somerset Museum Service. This work will integrate the data and reports produced during the fieldwork, post-excavation reporting and publication stages of the project.

10.2.8 **Task 8 – Completion - AAU**

Provision is made for final editing of the publication report and submission to the publisher, and for the deposition of the project archive with North Somerset Museum Service for longterm curation and storage.

11 Resources and Costs 2005/2006

11.1 Task 1 – Specialist analysis and reporting costs (ex. VAT)

| <i>Type</i> | <i>By</i> | <i>Task</i> | <i>Days</i> | <i>Cost £</i> |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Pottery | Dr. Timby | Summary Report | 1 | 180.00 |
| Human Bone | Malin Holst | Integrated Full Analysis Report | 14 | 1960.00 |
| Flint | Peter Makey | Summary Report | 1 | 180.00 |
| C ¹⁴ Dating/Stable Isotope Analysis (nine samples) | Rafter Radiocarbon Laboratory | Full Analysis Report | ---- | 3096.00 |
| Plant Macrofossils | Kath Hunter | Summary Report | 1 | 180.00 |
| | | Subtotal | | 5596.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 7% | | On specialist work | | 360.00 |
| Total Specialist Analysis Costs | | | | 5956.00 |

11.2 Task 2 – Introductory and Background text – AAU (ex. VAT)

| <i>Type</i> | <i>By</i> | <i>Task</i> | <i>Days</i> | <i>Cost £</i> |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Report | AAU | Publication Text | 3 | 255.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 61.00 |
| Total Cost | | | | 316.00 |

11.3 Task 3 – Area Excavation Fieldwork – AAU (ex. VAT)

| <i>Type</i> | <i>By</i> | <i>Task</i> | <i>Days</i> | <i>Cost £</i> |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Report | AAU | Publication Text | 4 | 340.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 81.00 |
| Total Cost | | | | 421.00 |

11.4 Task 4 – Report Illustrations – AAU (ex. VAT)

| <i>Type</i> | <i>By</i> | <i>Task</i> | <i>Days</i> | <i>Cost £</i> |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Report | AAU | Publication Illustrations | 12 | 1020.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 245.00 |
| Total Cost | | | | 1265.00 |

11.5 **Task 5 – Finds Illustrations - Mrs Davina Ware (ex. VAT)**

| Type | By | Task | Days | Cost £ |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|------|--------|
| Report | AAU | Publication Drawings | 1 | 85.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 20.00 |
| | | | | |
| Total Cost | | | | 105.00 |

11.6 **Task 6 – Discussion, Synthesis and Conclusions – AAU (ex. VAT)**

| Type | By | Task | Days | Cost £ |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|------|---------|
| Report | AAU | Publication Text | 10 | 850.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 200.00 |
| | | | | |
| Total Cost | | | | 1050.00 |

11.7 **Task 7 – Collation, Cross-referencing and Indexing of the Project Archive – AAU (ex. VAT)**

| Type | By | Task | Days | Cost £ |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------|------|--------|
| Archive | AAU | Project Archive | 3 | 255.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 61.00 |
| | | | | |
| Total Cost | | | | 316.00 |

11.8 **Task 8 – Completion and Editing – AAU (ex. VAT)**

| Type | By | Task | Days | Cost £ |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Editing | AAU | Edit Publication Text | 6 | 510.00 |
| AAU overheads @ 24% | | | | 122.00 |
| | | | | |
| Total Cost | | | | 632.00 |

11.9 **Non-salary related costs – AAU (materials, consumables and travel-related – ex. VAT)**

| Type | By | Rate | Cost £ |
|-----------------|--------|---------------|---------|
| Transport | AAU | 450 @ £0.35 | 157.00 |
| Consumables | AAU | | 275.00 |
| Archive | AAU | | 150.00 |
| Publication | PSANHS | 50pp @ £25.00 | 1250.00 |
| Postage/Courier | | | 75.00 |
| | | | |
| Total Cost | | | 1907.00 |

11.10 **TOTAL FOR THE PROJECT (Year 2005/2006)**

£11,968 + VAT

12 Timetable and Programme

A cascade chart setting out a proposed timetable and sequence for the tasks identified is included below (Appendix 6).

13 References

Adams L.J. 2002

An Archaeology and Osteology Analysis of Sub-Roman Human Remains from Portbury, North Somerset. A Dissertation Prepared in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the BA Degree in Archaeology at the University of Bristol
North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record NSSMR 45453

DoE 1990

Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 in *Archaeology and Planning*
Department of the Environment London

English Heritage 1991

Management of Archaeological Projects
HMSO London

English Heritage and the Church of England 2005

Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England
HMSO London

Etheridge D.J. 2004

St. Mary's CE Va Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Avon Archaeological Unit Bristol

Rogers J. and Ponsford M. 1979

Human Remains from a sub-Roman Cemetery at Station Road, Portishead, Avon in N. Thomas (ed)
Rescue Archaeology in the Bristol Area 1: Roman, medieval and later research organised by the City Museum and Art Gallery
Monograph No.2 pp7-14

Young A.C. 2005a

St. Mary's CE VA Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset: Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits – NSSMR 47143
Avon Archaeological Unit Bristol

Young A.C. 2005b

St. Mary's CE Va Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset: Summary Scheme of Work for Archaeological Excavation – NSSMR 47144
Avon Archaeological Unit Bristol

Plates



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN BONE FROM ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, PORTBURY, NORTH SOMERSET

November 2005

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was carried out by the Avon Archaeological Unit at St Mary's Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset during July 2005. The excavations recovered fourteen inhumed skeletons, as well as a small quantity of bone from an excavation baulk, termed Skeleton 15.

The excavation lies within the vicinity of what is thought to be the site of a Saxon Minster. The skeletons are as yet undated. Previous excavations at the site in the 1970s, carried out during the construction of the school, revealed further skeletons which were associated with Romano-British artefacts.

The recently excavated skeletons were found orientated with the heads to the west and the feet to the east, in supine extended positions. A multiple grave, containing three individuals was also found. It appears that two of the individuals had been laid in the grave beside one another, facing each other and almost representing a mirror image of one another, with the central legs overlapping. A third skeleton had then been laid on top of the two individuals, mid way between them.

Aims and Methodology

The aim of the skeletal assessment was to determine the age and sex of the individuals and to record any skeletal manifestations of disease and trauma. Furthermore, recommendations on the potential of the collection were to be put forward.

Osteology

The majority of the skeletons (73%) were in a poor or very poor condition, suffering from considerable fragmentation and bone surface erosion (Table 1). None of the skeletons were complete and 60% of individuals were represented by less than half of their skeletal remains.

Table 1 Summary of osteological and palaeopathological assessment

| Skeleton No | Preservation | Completeness | Age | Sex | Pathology |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|---|
| 1 | Very poor | 5% | Adult | - | - |
| 2 | Poor | 7% | - | - | - |
| 3 | Poor | 75% | Middle adult | Male | - |
| 4 | Moderate | 85% | Mature adult | Male? | - |
| 5 | Poor | 10% | Adult | - | - |
| 6 | Moderate | 60% | Adolescent | - | - |
| 7 | Poor | 75% | Adolescent | - | Dental calculus |
| 8 | Poor | 40% | Adult | - | Tibial periostitis |
| 9 | Poor | 7% | Adult | - | - |
| 10 | Very poor | 1% | - | - | - |
| 11 | Very poor | 1% | - | - | - |
| 12 | Good | 90% | Middle adult | Male | Dental crowding, Schmorl's nodes, post-mortem but green trauma in right tibia |
| 13 | Moderate | 1% | Adult | - | - |
| 14 | Poor | 70% | Juvenile | - | - |
| 15 | Poor | 1% | - | - | - |

In three cases, it was possible to determine age and sex; all of these individuals were male. Two of the individuals were middle adults, aged between 26 and 45 (Skeletons 3 and 12), while the third male (Skeleton 4) was 46 years old or older. In five further cases, the majority of the ageing characteristics were absent, but it was possible to determine that the individual was an adult (see Table 1).

The assemblage included three children, two of whom were adolescents. Skeleton 6 was a seventeen year old adolescent, while Skeleton 7 was aged between fifteen and seventeen. The third child was a juvenile, aged between two and six years.

It was not possible to determine age in four cases, as the bone quality was too poor.

Pathology

Non-specific infection was seen in Skeleton 8, and was characterised by superficial inflammatory lesions on the surfaces of the right tibia. Tibiae are the most likely bones to show evidence for inflammation because they are more vulnerable to knocks than other parts of the body. The type of skeletal lesion (lamellar bone) on the skeletons' shin bone suggested that the inflammation was receding. Inflammatory lesions on human bones can be indicative of infectious diseases, such as leprosy and syphilis, and of non-specific localised infection, such as varicose veins, leg ulcers or trauma to the shins. However, the lesions only form in the bone if the inflammation is chronic and long-standing. Evidence for infection was common before the introduction of antibiotics and is therefore frequently observed in populations derived from archaeological contexts.

Evidence for trauma was noted in one lumbar vertebra in the form of a Schmorl's node in Skeleton 12. Schmorl's nodes are indentations in the upper and lower surfaces of the vertebral bodies and can result from

damage to the intervertebral discs. Rupture of the discs only occurs if sufficient axial compressive forces are causing pressure on the central part of the discs; frequent lifting or carrying of heavy loads may cause this.

The same individual, who had been interred in the multiple grave, had also sustained a gouged cut to the medial surface of the right tibia. The lesion was examined and it is thought that this represents a post-mortem injury, which was sustained while the bone was still 'green' (the bone was still soft, rather than dry and brittle). It is probable that Skeletons 3 and 12 had been interred in the grave first and the grave had been partly filled in. At a later stage, while their bones were still 'green', the grave had been partly re-excavated for the inclusion of adolescent Skeleton 7. During this excavation, a tool used to dig the grave might have accidentally scraped the right tibia of Skeleton 12. However, detailed analysis of the lesion might provide further information on its cause.

Dental Pathology

No evidence for dental pathology was found with the exception of calculus (plaque concretions), which adhered to the majority of the teeth of Skeleton 7. It is likely that poor oral hygiene had caused the build-up of these deposits. The anterior mandibular teeth of Skeleton 12 were crowded, leading to overlapping of the teeth.

Conclusion

The fifteen inhumations from St Mary's School at Portbury were largely incomplete and poorly preserved. The small group included individuals of all ages, and those whose sex could be determined were all male.

The population was largely healthy, although further detailed analysis of the skeletal remains would most certainly reveal additional pathological lesions. One individual had suffered from an inflammatory lesion on the shin, while a male adult had sustained vertebral trauma, often associated with carrying heavy loads.

The dental pathology suggested that individuals from this population did not practise rigorous oral hygiene.

Future Recommendations

Considering the cemetery's archaeological context, with its possible association with a Saxon Minster, the skeletal remains should clearly be radiocarbon dated, with the aim of confirming or refuting an early medieval date. This is especially important in view of the relative rarity of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in South-western England.

Due to their poor preservation, this population may not provide the utmost osteological information, which might be gained from well-preserved skeletons. However, their archaeological context renders them important. It is therefore recommended that the skeletons are examined in more detail, with the aim of determining the ages of the individuals more closely and to attempt to assess the sex of all of the adult remains. Any pathological lesions which can be identified during a detailed examination of the bones would prove important when considered in conjunction with a radiocarbon date.

The current analysis by York Osteoarchaeology Ltd of the skeletons from a cemetery of similar character, only

five miles to the northeast of Portbury, may provide a useful comparable sample if the cemeteries are found to be of similar date.

It is therefore recommended that the skeletons should be radiocarbon dated and receive further analysis with the aim of gaining the utmost information about this potentially important cemetery site.

Costing and Timetabling for Further Work

It is proposed that the assemblage should be fully analysed regardless of its date. Full analysis and reporting would require nine days @ £140.00 per day, making a total of £1260.00. It has been proposed to integrate the osteological data resulting from the analysis of the human remains excavated at Portbury in 1972 (Adams 2002) with that from the recently excavated skeletal assemblage, with the aim of gaining the utmost information about the site. This work would take a further two days @ £140.00 per day, making a total cost of £1540.00.

If the radiocarbon date does suggest that the assemblage dates to the early medieval period, it would clearly represent an important cemetery for the Southwest of England. It is therefore recommended that in such a case, the utmost potential is gained from the skeletal remains. Stable isotope analysis (carbon and nitrogen isotopes) of the remains could be carried out with regards to diet, with the aim of identifying whether these individuals were of high or low status. This work could not be carried out by York Osteoarchaeology Ltd and I can therefore not provide a costing for such analysis.

If the skeletal remains date to the early medieval period, it is suggested that further work should concentrate on further research with the aim of placing the cemetery within its archaeological and historical context and the identification of potential comparable examples. Such research should take no more than three working days at £140.00 per day. Should the results warrant publication, additional time should be added for the preparation of a paper, the time required will depend upon the type of publication.

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St. Mary's CE Va Primary School, Portbury, North Somerset
NSSMR 47144 / WESTM: 2005.99.

FLINT REPORT: (2005).

By P. Makey.

1) Non Technical Summary:

The site produced 13 pieces of struck, prehistoric flintwork of probable Neolithic (New Stone Age) to early Bronze Age date. All the material appears to have been manufactured locally from locally derived raw material. The material is in a fresh state indicating that prehistoric features may exist in the near vicinity. Eight of the pieces comprises, waste flakes that are the bi-product of the manufacture of flint tools. The remaining pieces, include, 3 implements (2 scrapers, 1 edge retouched bladelet) plus 1 miscellaneous retouched flake and 1 edge utilised flake. One of the scrapers was later re-used as a core.

Cores are the basic blank from which flint flakes and blades are manufactured. Scrapers are the most common prehistoric tool and are typically used for removing fat and meat from hides although the Portbury examples may have been used on soft wood. Bladelets are small blade shaped flints that are used in a similar way to a knife blade.

2) Summary: The incidence and composition of the assemblage is given below (tables 1-3): -

The flint assemblage totals 13 struck pieces (59.3g) of prehistoric worked flint from 8 separate contexts. Five pieces of natural unstruck flint and 1 piece of chert was also recovered (table 3). The assemblage is not homogenous, although a reasonably high degree of consistency in the flaking characteristics and raw material suggests 2-3 separate phases of flint working.

There is currently not enough material to postulate a domestic occupation site although most of the flakes recovered are from final stages of flint knapping, suggesting a degree of on-site core reduction.

3) State:

Despite the residual contexts the material is in a surprisingly fresh state and shows virtually no trace of edge attrition and the only broken piece is an edge-retouched bladelet (small find 202) from the fill of grave 150. It is possible that the bulk of the struck flint has been derived from the fill of the postholes and pits from the first phase of site activity. The state of the material is suggestive of in-situ flintwork. The broken edge retouched bladelet (202) is missing the butt end of the implement. The piece has a snap fracture that has probably been initiated by trampling (prehistoric).

3.1 Patination:

Patination is present on only 1 piece. The core scraper (small find 203) from subsoil 103 has 2 separate phases of patina. The core flake bed possesses a very small degree of light grey patina. The parent cortical flake had previously been flaked to form a crude slightly notched scraper. One area of this implement has a dense old cream coloured patina.

4) Raw Material:

The raw material appears to be from a local till or gravel deposit, possibly from around the shore of the Bristol Channel. Predominately olive grey coloured (munsell 5Y 4/1) fine to medium grained flint was used. The raw material appears to have been small fist sized rounded pebbles with a smooth rolled 2-3mm thick salmon brown cortex. At least 3 separate flint nodules are present in the assemblage.

5) Knapping & Lithic Reduction:

Flint knapping all appears to have been via the application of hard hammer technique. The presence of a twin hertzian bulb on an unstratified, very large hinged cortical flake (small find 207) suggests that some of the knapping may have been conducted with cores resting on a stone or flint anvil.

There is a reasonably high degree of consistency in the flint knapping. The quality of the knapping was very high with evidence of platform preparation and platform edge trimming. The unstratified end scraper (small find 208) possesses high quality parallel convex retouch. Flaking appears to be geared to the production of small semi-parallel bladelet and sub-bladelet flakes c8x20mm and irregular flakes of similar dimensions. There is more than 1 phase of knapping. Re-use of older struck pieces is evidenced by core 203 that has been manufactured on a previously struck scraper.

6) Use Wear:

Seven of the flints (54%) betray macroscopic traces of edge use, in 1 instance (small find 205, tertiary fill of pit 154) a flake has been utilised to a degree that resembles intentional retouch. Surprisingly use wear is present on 4 of the unretouched flakes (including the piece classed as utilised). The degree varies from light to moderate.

6.1) Micro Wear:

The flakes with macroscopic wear possess also possess slight traces of nondescript microscopic use wear. Fine traces of micro wear are present on the unstratified end scraper (small find 208). The micro wear suggests that this implement may have been used to scrape soft wood rather than hides.

7) Chronology:

The assemblage is probably predominately of early middle Neolithic to later Neolithic date, with a possible smaller element of early Bronze Age / Beaker material. Chronologically the material probably represents 2-3 phases of activity.

Period diagnostic pieces are few. The flaking is of Neolithic character. The unstratified end scraper (small find 208) is of a form, frequently, though not exclusively associated with Beaker assemblages.

The broken edge retouched bladelet (small find 202) from grave cut 150 has fine, straight marginal ventral right hand side retouch plus a small area of opposed left side proximal retouch. This almost resembles a later Mesolithic microlith although similar pieces do occur sporadically in later Neolithic assemblages. A Neolithic date is most probable for this piece.

8) Significance:

The current assemblage is too small to be of any great significance although 3 points are of note.

8.1) The quality of the use wear is high.

8.2) The quality of knapping is high.

8.3) The material is in a very fresh state of preservation suggesting stratified prehistoric material may be present in the immediate vicinity.

9) Recommendations:

At present no further work is warranted on the current assemblage.

10) Illustration:

Five of the pieces from this assemblage should be considered for illustration.

These are: -

- 1) End Scraper (small find 208, record 2, unstratified).
- 2) Core Scraper (small find 203, record 7, context 103).
- 3) Secondary Flake small find 201, record 8, context 114).
- 4) Edge Retouched Bladelet Ventral, Right Hand Side with ancillary Ventral, Proximal, Left Side retouch. Broken (small find 202, record 9, context 138).
- 5) Edge Utilised Flake, Proximal, Right Hand Side (small find 205, record 11, context 155).

TABLE 1: Composition of the Portbury School, Flint Assemblage.

| Artefact | Number | Breakage | Use – Wear | CONTEXTS |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------------------|
| Debitage | | | | |
| Chunks | 1 | | | 142 |
| Chippings | 1 | | | 132 |
| Flakes | 6 | | 3 | 100 (x4), 114, 147 |
| Utilised | | | | |
| Edge Utilised Flakes | 1 | | 1 | 155 |
| Retouched | | | | |
| Miscellaneous Ret Flakes | 1 | | 1 | 100 |
| Edge Retouched Bladelet | 1 | 1 | 1 | 138 |
| Scrapers, End | 1 | | 1 | 100 |
| Core Scraper (Notched) | 1 | | | 103 |
| TOTALS | 13 | 1 | 7 (54%) | |

Table 2: The Flint Assemblage by Context (NB: Dates are subjective).**

| Rec | Context Number | Context Type | Small Find Number | Artefact Type | Artefact Date ? |
|-----|----------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 100 | Unstratified | 207 | Flake | Neo / EBA |
| 2 | 100 | Unstratified | 208 | End Scraper | Beaker |
| 3 | 100 | Unstratified | | Flake | Any |
| 4 | 100 | Unstratified | | Flake | Any |
| 5 | 100 | Unstratified | | Flake | Any |
| 6 | 100 | Unstratified | | Miscellaneous Retouched Flake | L Neo / EBA |
| 7 | 103 | Subsoil | 203 | Core / Scraper | Neo / EBA |
| 8 | 114 | Pit 113 | 201 | Flake | L Neo / EBA |
| 9 | 138 | Grave 150 | 202 | Edge Retouched Bladelet / Broken | L Meso / Neo |
| 10 | 147 | Grave 161 | 206 | Flake | Any |
| 11 | 155 | Pit 154 | 205 | Edge Utilised Flake | L Neo / EBA |
| 12 | 132 | Grave 146 | | Chipping | Any |
| 13 | 142 | Grave 160 | | Chunk | Any |

Table 3: Natural, Unstruck Flint & Chert.

| Records | Number | Context Number | Context Type |
|---------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 13 | 1 | 132 | Grave 146 |
| 14 - 15 | 2 | 138 | Grave 150 |
| 16 - 17 | 2 (1 is Chert) | 142 | Grave 160 |
| 19 | 1 | 163 | Posthole 162 |

Portbury, 2005: NSSMR, 47144.
North Somerset. ACC. No. 2005.99

(Final revision on 20/11/05)

By Peter Makey.

Prepared for The Avon Archaeological Unit.

Recorded in MS Excel 97/00 format.

FLINT ARCHIVE REPORT:
KEY TO THE FLINT RECORD SHEET.
EXCAVATION MATERIAL.

The archive sheets are arranged in context then small find order.

KEY:

Note* The conventional term patina is used throughout this catalogue to avoid confusion between the terms cortex and the process of cortication. Patina is here used to refer to a visible discoloration and / or waxy staining of a flints surface.

Bracketed figures are those, which are used as headings on the spreadsheet where they differ from the key.

The code NA = not applicable.

A) Record Number (Rec). Individual flint identification numbers starting at the number 1.
These are specific to this record sheet only and are intended as an aid to locating individual small finds.

B) Site Name (Site). C) Avon NSSMR Code. D) WESTM Code.
E) Small Find Number (SF No). F) Grid Reference (Grid Ref). G) Feature. Feature type.
H) Context Number (Context).

I) ARTEFACT TYPE. Broken pieces have the suffix /BR or FR (fragment in the case of cores).
Un-classifiable sub types of tools and cores have the suffix /UC. Non-struck lithics are recorded as natural.
The basic classification of artefacts is as follows: -

Un-Retouched: -

Blades & Bladelets.

Bladelets are here defined as blade like pieces with a length of less than 5 cm and a width of less than 1.2 cm. The length should typically be more than twice that of the width. Blades are defined as flake removals which are at least twice as long as they are wide with a length: breadth ratio of at least 5:2. In addition to this some degree of subjective judgement of bladedness has also been weighed into the equation, typically with regard to dorsal scarring etc.

Chippings & Chunks.

Chippings are defined as Non-bulbar debitage of dimensions below 1 cm.
Chunks are defined as Non-bulbar debitage of dimensions in excess of 1 cm.

Flakes.

Here defined as un-retouched removals with a length in excess of 10mm that are not included in the above.

Cores. These are here defined as a nodule or piece of flint from which more than 2 flakes have been removed in a systematic order.

Retouched: -

Conventional classifications of diagnostic implement types have been used.
The following lists only types specifically defined for this catalogue.

Edge Retouched Flakes & Blades.

Typically intentionally straight edge retouch along the lateral margins of a blade or blade like flake.

Edge Utilised Flakes & Blades.

Technically not retouched, this class encompasses pieces on which the macroscopic edge use is so intensive as to resemble intentional retouch.

Miscellaneous Retouch.

Many post-glacial flint assemblages contain retouched pieces that defy conventional classification.

J) Sub-Type. The following basic artefact classification systems have been used: -

Scrapers. These have been classified by area of retouch, for example, end, side, side & end etc.

K) Completeness. In the case of broken pieces the remaining area is noted.

L) Weight. This is given to the nearest 0.1g. Pieces are weighed, principally as an aid to identification.

M) Length. In mm (expressed to the nearest 10th of a mm). Broken dimensions are given the prefix 00: measurements are taken along the bulbar axis.

N) Breadth. In mm (expressed to the nearest 10th of a mm). Broken dimensions are given the prefix 00: measurements are taken at widest point perpendicular to the bulbar axis.

O) State. A purely subjective expression of the overall state of a piece. Classifications are: -
VF = Very fresh, F = Fresh, M = Moderate, O = Old, R = Residual (often rolled or re-deposited).

P) Post Depositional Damage (Damage). Damage resulting from excavation and other agencies such as ploughing not covered by any previous categories. This is basically damage that is not of prehistoric origin.

Q) Colour. The colour of the flint is given based on Munsell nomenclature.

R) Source. This is basically an assumption of the most probable raw material source for the flint.

S) Reduction. The sequence of lithic reduction is based on commonly accepted basic divisions:-

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| P = Primary | = | Pieces with total cortication of dorsal surface and striking platform. |
| S = Secondary | = | Semi-corticated pieces from secondary stages of lithic reduction. |
| ST = Secondary / Tertiary | = | Broken un-corticated pieces that may have been cortical. |
| T = Tertiary | = | Totally un-corticated pieces from the final stages of lithic reduction. |

T) Edge Use. A subjective classification of visible edge damage (Squilling etc.) resultant from utilisation. A basic division of very light, light, moderate; heavy and very heavy is used. The location of wear may also be given: - AE = All edges, D = Distal, DR = Dorsal, LS = Left side, P = Proximal,
RS = Right side, TD = Transverse distal, VT = Ventral.

U) Patina. The degree and colour of patination, if the trait is present.

V) Notes. Any other traits not mentioned in the above, such as re-use, etc.

W) Angle. Edge angle of any retouch.

X) Draw. Note if the piece is of a quality that warrants illustration.

Y) Date?.

This is basically a provisional guesstimate of the probable age of a piece and / or it's possible industrial association.

KEY, Bibliography.

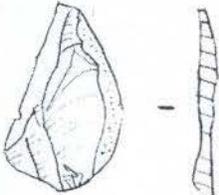
Munsell 1988. Munsell Soil Colour Charts.

Portbury, 2005: NSSMR, 47144.
North Somerset. ACC. No. 2005.99

EVALUATION FLINT.
ILLUSTRATION MATERIAL.

The following page contains **rough** archive sketches.

The Flint – Archive Sketches

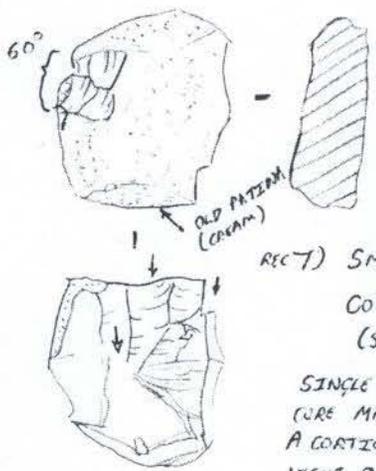


REC 8) SMALL FIND 201
CONTEXT 114 (PIT 113)
FLAKE
OLIVE GREY.

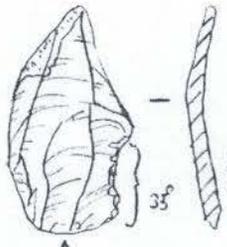


SCALE 1:1
PAGE 1 OF 1.

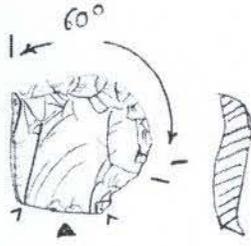
REC 9) SMALL FIND 202
CONTEXT 138
(FILL IN GRAVE CUT 150)
(SKELETON 9)
BROKEN EDGE RETOUCHET BLADELET
VENTRAL RHS. OLIVE GREY.
ANCELLARY V LMS



REC 7) SMALL FIND 203
CONTEXT 103
(SUBSOIL).
SINGLE PLATFORMED FLAKE
CORE MANUFACTURED ON
A CORTICAL NOTCHED SCRAPER.
LIGHT OLIVE GREY.



REC 11) SMALL FIND 205
CONTEXT 155
(TERTIARY FILL
OF PIT 154)
EDGE UTILISED FLAKE
(PROX - RHS)
DARK OLIVE GREY FLINT.



REC 2) SMALL FIND 208
CONTEXT U/S
END SCRAPER.
DARK OLIVE GREY FLINT.

Prep by P. Malloy
for AAL.

| Portbury School, 2005: Flint Archive. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------|-------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|--------------|
| Rec | Site | NSSMR | WESTM | SF No | Grid Ref | Feature | Context | ARTEFACT TYPE | Sub - Type | Completeness | Weight | Length | Breadth | State | Damage | Colour |
| 1 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 207 | | Unstratified | 100 | Flake | Very Broad, hinged, twin bulbs | Complete | 25.9 | 48.4 | 52.5 | VF | | D Olive Grey |
| 2 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 208 | | Unstratified | 100 | Scraper | End | Complete | 3.6 | 23 | 22.7 | VF | | D Olive Grey |
| 3 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Unstratified | 100 | Flake | | Complete | 0.1 | 15.6 | 6.4 | VF | | Olive Grey |
| 4 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Unstratified | 100 | Flake | Thinning | Complete | 0.1 | 11.8 | 10.3 | VF | | Olive Grey |
| 5 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Unstratified | 100 | Flake | | Complete | 0.2 | 18 | 6.7 | VF | | Olive Grey |
| 6 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Unstratified | 100 | Misc Retouched Fl | Ventral | Complete | 2.7 | 23.2 | 18 | M | Heavy | Olive Grey |
| 7 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 203 | 105.1/96.44 | Subsoil | 103 | Core / Scraper | Core 1 Plat, Scr = Notched | Complete | 14.7 | 32.3 | 29.6 | M | Light | L Olive Grey |
| 8 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 201 | 101.7/101.7 | Pit 113 | 114 | Flake | | Complete | 2 | 19:12 | 18.2 | VF | Light | Olive Grey |
| 9 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 202 | 100.4/111.71 | Grave 150 | 138 | Edge Ret Bladelet / Br | Ventral RHS + Ancil | Dist / Medial | 0.7 | 21.3 | 9.3 | VF | | Olive Grey |
| 10 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 206 | 101.48/100.45 | Grave 161 | 147 | Flake | (Primary-chipping) | Complete | 0.6 | 8.2 | 20.5 | F | | Olive Grey |
| 11 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | 205 | 102.2/99.05 | Pit 154 | 155 Tertiary Fill | Edge Utilised Flake | DR-PX-RHS | Complete | 3.6 | 36.5 | 21 | F | | D Olive Grey |
| 12 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 146 | 132 | Chipping | | Complete | 0.1 | 13.6 | 4.3 | VF | | Olive Grey |
| 13 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 146 | 132 | Natural | Rolled | | | | | | | Olive Grey |
| 14 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 150 | 138 | Natural | Rolled | | | | | | | L Olive Grey |
| 15 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 150 | 138 | Natural | Rolled | | | | | | | NA |
| 16 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 160 | 142 Disturbed | Natural | Rolled | | | | | | | Olive Grey |
| 17 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 160 | 142 Disturbed | Natural. Chert | Rolled | | | | | | | Pinkish Red |
| 18 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Grave 160 | 142 Disturbed | Chunk | | Complete | 5 | 28.5 | 17.8 | Resid | | L Olive Grey |
| 19 | Portbury School | 47144 | 2005.99 | | | Post Hole 162 | 163 | Natural | Rolled | | | | | | | Olive Grey |
| Rec | Site | NSSMR | WESTM | SF No | Grid Ref | Feature | Context | ARTEFACT TYPE | Sub - Type | Completeness | Weight | Length | Breadth | State | Damage | Colour |

Portbury School, 2005: Flint Archive.

| Source | Reduction | Edge Use | Patina | Notes | Angle | Draw | Date? |
|--------|------------|----------|-----------------|---|-------|-------|--------------|
| Till | Sec 80% | M-VT/LHS | | Very broad with VL hinged termin. Facetted plat. With edge trimming/dressing. Twin pronounced hertzian bulbs. Thick 2-3mm salmon coloured cortex. V high quality flint. | | | Neo / EBA |
| Till | Sec <10% | Moderate | | 28mm length of semi convex edge retouch. Slightly asymmetric. Fine parallel edge retouch. Pronounced salient bulb. Micro wear looks like working on wood. | 60 | Yes | Beakerish |
| Till | Tertiary | Light | | Very fine. Small. Slight use or trimming damage. | | | Any |
| Till | Sec <5% | | | Very fine thin flint. 1mm thick. | | | Any |
| Till | Sec <5% | | | Very sharp. Salient bulb. Surface hackles. Final preparation flake. | | | Any |
| Till | Sec <10% | Light | | 8mm length of minimal retouch on a chunky flake. Hackled. Very crude. | 40 | | L Neo / EBA |
| Till | P/S 45% | | VL-LG & D Cream | Small cortical Primary flake with 5.3mm. Long, 2mm deep notched scraper ret. Old cream patina on butt. Piece has subsequently had 3-4 sm <10mm long 5mm wide flake rems. Piece has been used as a crude single platformed part flaked core. Fresh rems have a VL light grey patina. | 60 | Yes? | Neo / EBA |
| Till | Sec (Side) | L-LHS | | Fine flake with dorsal scars and trimmed platform. Twin bulb scars. | | Yes?? | L Neo / EBA |
| Till | Sec / Ter | L-VT/LHS | | Straight marginal retouch 19mm. Ancillary DR-LHS use, 7mm long. Hinge termin. Proximal snap fracture. Fine parallel sided. Sub-microlithic. | 35 | Yes | L Meso / Neo |
| Till | P 100% | | | 2mm thick salmon coloured cortex. | | | Any |
| Till | Sec <5% | M-PX-RHS | | Broad flaked flake with salient bulb and dished single flake platform. 12mm length of utilisation wear. | 35 | Yes | L Neo / EBA |
| Till | Tertiary | | | Very fine flint. | | | Any |
| Till | | | | Natural. Rolled small chunk. | | | NA |
| Gravel | | | | Natural rolled gravel. | | | NA |
| Gravel | | | Total White | Natural rolled gravel. | | | NA |
| Gravel | | | | Natural rolled gravel. | | | NA |
| Gravel | | | | Natural. | | | NA |
| Till | Sec 10% | | | Rolled. Crude coarse grained flint. | | | Any |
| Gravel | | | | Rolled. | | | NA |
| Source | Reduction | Edge Use | Patina | Notes | Angle | Draw | Date? |

For: Avon Archaeology Unit
 Site: St. Mary's CE Va primary School, Portbury NSSMR 47144
 Status: assessment
 Author: Jane Timby
 Date: 7.10.05

THE POTTERY

Summary

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 28 fragments of pottery dating to the Roman, Medieval and post-medieval/ modern periods. Pottery was associated with three contexts with the largest group, 19 sherds, coming from unstratified collection.

Two sherds of Roman pottery are present, one each from contexts 132 and 138. The former is from a Dorset black burnished ware bowl; the latter an undiagnostic greyware bodysherd. Neither sherd is closely datable other than 2nd-4th century.

Context 142 contained post-medieval sherds along with two residual probable medieval sherds, one with combed decoration. A large shed of glazed red earthenware and a small chip of china suggest a post-18th century date. The unstratified material includes a sherd of green glazed Surrey-Hampshire Border ware, glazed and unglazed earthenware, English stoneware, china and basalt ware. A sherd apparently still attached to a coarseware mould was also recovered (SF 200). The fine red fabric suggests this is a post-medieval piece but the piece could indicate a pottery nearby.

The assemblage does not warrant further work.

Table 1: Summary of pottery from Portbury: NSSMR 47144

| Context | Roman | Med | Med/Pm | Pmed | Tot No | Tot wt | Date |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------|
| 132 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 28 | C2-C4 |
| 138 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | Roman |
| 142 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 42 | 18th+ |
| us | 0 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 21 | 195 | |
| TOTAL | 2 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 28 | 281 | |

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PLANT MACROFOSSILS, OTHER
ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS
FROM
THE EXCAVATION AT St. MARY'S CE Va PRIMARY SCHOOL,
PORTBURY
NSSMR 47144
WESTM: 2005.99

NOVEMBER 2005

K. L. HUNTER.

CONTENTS

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| AIMS. | 3 |
| METHOD. | 3 |
| RESULTS | 4, |
| DISCUSSION. | 4 |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | 4 |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS | 5 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY. | 5 |
| Table 1 charred plant macrofossils and other environmental remains | 6 |

INTRODUCTION

Following an excavation carried out by Avon Archaeological Unit, at the site of a Romano-British and sub-Roman cemetery at St. Mary's CE VA primary school, Portbury eight samples were selected for assessment. These samples were part of a larger selection of samples taken from a number of inhumations to test the recovery of small bones during excavation and assess the potential for other eco/artefacts.

AIMS

The aim of this assessment was to carry out a rapid qualitative and quantitative assessment of a range of contexts from the site looking at the plant macrofossils along with other environmental remains and finds from the samples selected.

It was also intended to assess the quality and type of preservation of the above remains and to discuss whether they could help in the interpretation of the features sampled. The potential for further work on the material recovered from the site on its own merits and in relation to historically and geographically comparable sites was considered.

The analysis has also allowed a review of the general condition of the different ecofacts and artefacts associated with the plant remains.

METHOD

The eight samples selected for assessment were processed by Avon Archaeological Unit using a standard floatation technique, in order to remove the minerogenic portions of the soil sample. The flot and residue were recovered on a 500µm mesh. Each of the resulting flots and residues was air dried and then scanned by the author using a MTL10 stereomicroscope. The frequency of plant macrofossil remains was recorded in Table 1 along with a more general summary of environmental remains and finds from the samples. The identification of the plant remains was carried out with comparison to modern reference material and reference texts (Jacomet 1987, Berggren 1981, Beijerinck 1947).

The nomenclature for the identification of the plant remains follows Stace (1995) and for the purposes of this assessment the term seed includes achene, nutlet etc.

RESULTS

A summary of the plant remains and other ecofacts is recorded in Table 1.

DISCUSSION

All of the samples contained a few cereal grain remains. Their preservation varied from good, allowing identification of some of the cereals to genus, to poor where few identifiable characteristics remained. A few charred seeds were also present in three of the samples (424, 433, 435) these include arable weed species such as Stinking Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.) seeds and genus associated with damp environments such as Sedges (*Carex* sp.). Five of the samples (123, 422, 427, 432, 433) contained small charcoal fragments. Relatively large numbers of small bone fragments were noted in all of the samples, which are probably associated with the inhumations. A few land molluscs were present in one sample (436).

As no discrete deposits of charred plant remains were noticed during excavation (pers.com. Donna Young) and they occur in relatively small numbers it is also unlikely that they represent deliberate depositions of material as grave goods. It is more likely that the plant remains present were either residual within the soils into which the graves were cut or from the backfill. As such the grains will be of little use as dating evidence for the inhumations. All of the bone in the samples consisted of small fragments of large mammal bone. This is probably of human origin but confirmation should be sought from the relevant specialist.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Charred plant remains

I recommend that no further work be carried out on the plant remains from these samples. However the assemblage from these samples does highlight the potential for the presence of charred cereal remains in other deposits in the vicinity and this should be taken into account when planning further excavations in the area.

Charcoal

I recommend that no further work be carried out on the charcoal from the samples assessed.

Bone

Any decision on further work on the bone should be taken in consultation with the relevant specialists.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Donna Young for her assistance with this report.

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- 2002 *Environmental Archaeology A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. Centre for Archaeological Guidelines 01 English Heritage*

Table 1 Plant Macrofossils and other ecofacts

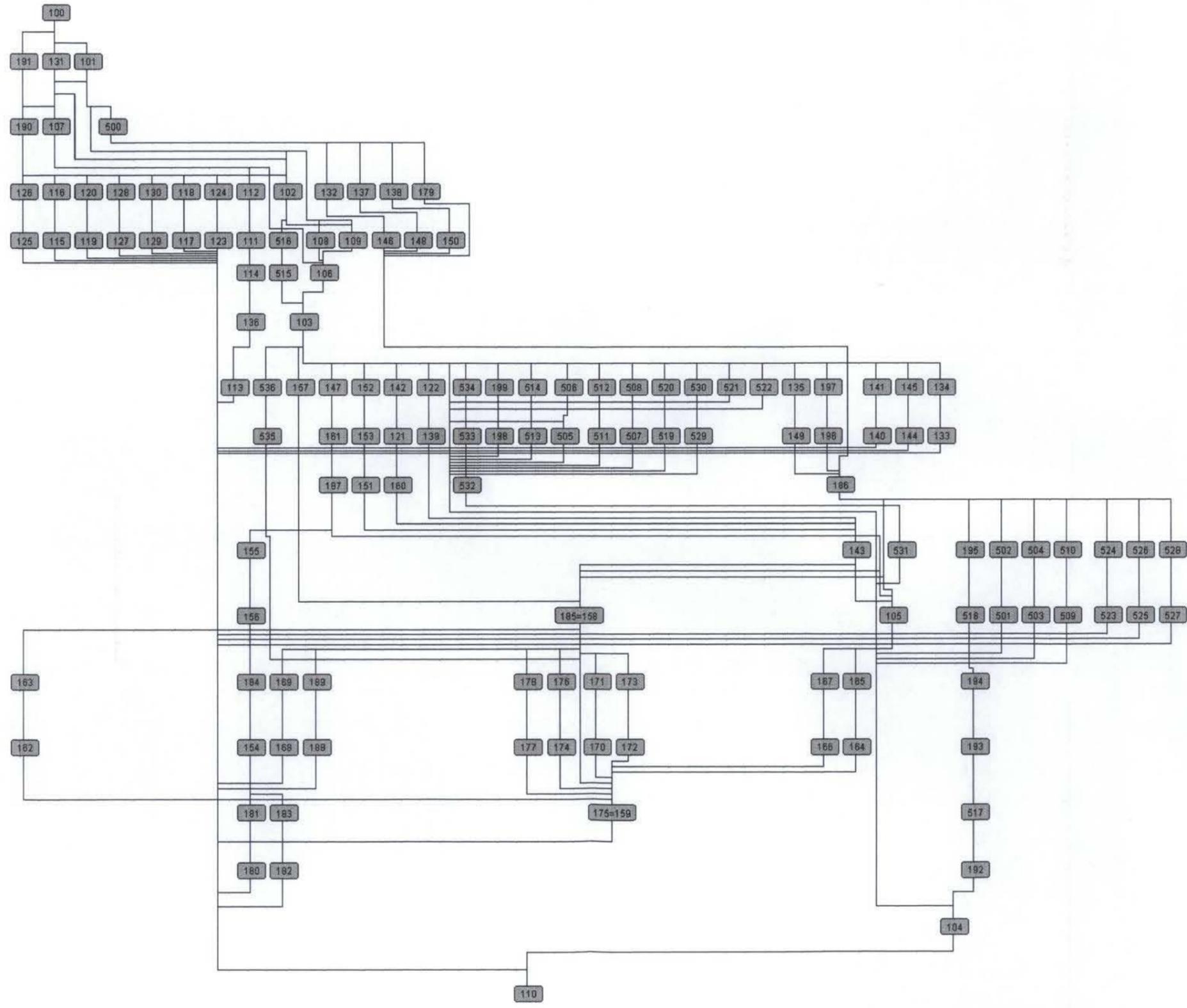
| Skeleton No. | Sample location | Sample No. | Context No. | CARBONISED Plant remains | | | | Other ecofacts | | COMMENTS |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|----------|----------------|----------|--|
| | | | | Grain | Chaff | Seeds | Charcoal | Bone | Mollusca | |
| 4 | Legs/Feet | 423 | 122 | * | | | ** | *** | | A few cereal remains including Hulled barley (<i>Hordeum</i> sp.) with a possible wheat grain (<i>Triticum</i> sp.). Also contained a few amorphous charred lumps and bread-like fragments. Frequent modern roots and seeds were also present. |
| 4 | Torso | 424 | 122 | ** | | * | | **** | | One hulled Barley grain (<i>Hordeum</i> sp.), One possible oat grain (cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.) A single possible Spike-rush (cf. <i>Eleocharis</i> sp.) nutlet fragment was also noted. Frequent modern roots, seeds and insect remains present. |
| 6 | Legs/Feet | 422 | 135 | ** | | | * | **** | | Cereal includes a few relatively well preserved hulled barley grains and one each of the following seeds Black-bindweed (<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) Á. Löve), (cf. <i>medicago/trifolium</i>) medicks/clover type and (<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.) Stinking chamomile. Relatively small amount of modern roots compared with the other samples with a few modern insect remains. |
| 6 | Torso | 427 | 135 | * | | | *** | **** | | A few unidentifiable cereal grain fragments and amorphous charred lumps Also contained a few modern roots, insects and seeds. |
| 7 | Legs/Feet | 432 | 121 | ** | | | *** | **** | | A few grains of a bread wheat type with cereal grain fragments. Abundant modern roots. |
| 7 | Torso | 433 | 121 | * | | * | *** | **** | | A few unidentifiable cereal grain fragments, One possible charred legume type seed fragment. |
| 3/12 | Torso | 435 | 121 | ** | | * | | **** | | One fragment from a possible hulled barley grain with a few unidentifiable grain fragments was present. One possible Sedge nutlet (cf. <i>Carex</i> sp.) was also noted. |
| 3/12 | Feet/Legs | 436 | 121 | ** | | | | **** | ** | A few hulled barley grains with one possible oat grain. A few amorphous charred lumps were also present. There were abundant modern roots and leaf fragments present. |

Abundance

* Rare
 ** Occasional
 *** Frequent
 **** Abundant

Matrix for the Excavation

Appendix 5



Appendix 6

St Mary's Primary School, Portbury – Archaeological Excavation
 Updated Project Design Work Programme

| Month Week | March 06 | | | | April 06 | | | | May 06 | | | | June 06 | | | | July 06 | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|--------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|---------|----|----|----|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | |
| Task 1 | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 2 | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | |
| Task 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| Task 4 | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | |
| Task 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | |
| Task 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | |
| Task 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | |
| Task 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | |

Appendix 7

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|---|-------|--------|----------------|
| 138 | Flint | SF:202 - Flint blade with retouch to left edge of ventral surface. Hinge termination. Bulb of percussion removed to form straight top edge | 1 | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 114 | Flint | SF:201 - Worked flint flake, poss struck with hammer tool. Bottom edge (steeply angled) exhibits some use wear | 1 | 2 | Prehistoric |
| 155 | Flint | SF: 205 - Flint flake tool with retouch to top left of dorsal surface. Poss struck with hammer tool | 1 | 4 | Prehistoric |
| 147 | Flint | (SF: 206) - Flint chip with dorsal surface fully cortical. No evidence of retouch. | 1 | 1 | Prehistoric |
| 100 | Flint | SF:207 - Flint flake with c.80% cortex remaining on dorsal surface. Hinge terminated with a large bulb of percussion suggests hammer tool working. No retouching though possible evidence of minimal use to ventral top | 1 | 30 | Prehistoric |
| 100 | Flint | SF:208 - Flint 'thumb' scrapper, retouched on dorsal surface around 3 edges (steeper along bottom edge). Large bulb of percussion suggests hammer tool use. Unretouched edge has small amount of cortex present | 1 | 4 | Prehistoric |
| 100 | Pottery | SF:200 - Light coloured coarse fabric ceramic mould containing section of dense red pottery. Side view shows mould has impressed design | 1 | 78 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 103 | Flint | SF:203 - Worked irregular flint (c.50% cortex remaining), flaked and retouched notch on dorsal / cortical surface edge | 1 | 12 | Prehistoric |
| 152 | Bone | Bone | 4 | 2 | Unknown |
| 199 | Bone | Bone fragments | | 18 | Unknown |
| 138 | Pottery | Grey-ware (Roman) | 1 | 14 | Romano-British |
| 138 | Flint | Flint chip & patinated flint chunk | 2 | 2 | Unknown |
| 132 | Pottery | Black burnished (Roman). | 1 | 28 | Romano-British |
| 132 | Flint | Flint chips | 2 | 2 | Unknown |
| 138 | Stone | Conglomerate | 1 | 462 | Unknown |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|---|-------|--------|--------------|
| 162 | Flint | Flint chip | 1 | 1 | Unknown |
| 143 | Glass | Vessel glass | 1 | 1 | Unknown |
| 114 | Stone | Conglomerate | 1 | 24 | Unknown |
| 516 | CTP | CTP (<1g) | 1 | 1 | Unknown |
| 135 | Glass | Window glass (<1g) | 1 | 1 | Unknown |
| 100 | Pottery | 2 x Postmed 'Transfer' print, 1 x Stoneware & 1 x Iron Age? | 4 | 18 | Unknown |
| 100 | Glass | Bottle glass | 2 | 4 | Unknown |
| 100 | Bone | Bone | 1 | 12 | Unknown |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-------------------|---|-------|--------|--------------|
| 100 | Flint | 3 x flint chips, 1 x retouched flake | 4 | 2 | Unknown |
| 100 | Glass | 4 x bottle frags & 1 x window glass | 5 | 66 | Unknown |
| 100 | CBM | 1 x modern roof tile, 1 x pipe section & 5 x clay tile pieces | 7 | 160 | Unknown |
| 100 | Coal | Coal | 1 | 12 | Unknown |
| 100 | Pottery | 3 x poss RB, 1 x Med, 4 x Post Med Red Ware, 9 x modern | 17 | 90 | Unknown |
| 142 | Technical Residue | Metallic slag | 1 | 8 | Unknown |
| 142 | Tesserae | Possible tessera | 1 | 8 | Unknown |
| 142 | Flint | 2 x Flint chips & 1 x chert lump | 3 | 22 | Unknown |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 142 | Stone | 3 x Quartz pebbles | 3 | 16 | Unknown |
| 142 | Glass | White glass | 1 | 2 | Unknown |
| 142 | Pottery | 1 x modern, 2 x Med & 2 x PostMed Red Wares. | 5 | 42 | Unknown |
| 142 | Stone | Slate fragment | 1 | 1 | Unknown |
| 142 | Metalwork | FE Object (nail?) | 1 | 16 | Unknown |
| 142 | Bone | Bone fragments | 4 | 4 | Unknown |
| 100 | Bone | SK1 (frags) - Arm bones? | | 54 | Romano-British |
| 100 | Bone | SK2 (frags) - Arm Bones? | | 66 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Right Hand (good preservation) | 23 | 34 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Bone frags | | 12 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Left hand (frags) | | 28 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Right foot (good preservation) | 27 | 128 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Left ribcage (crushed - frags) | | 32 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Unknown (frags) | | 4 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Left arm (5 + frags) | 5 | 110 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Cranium (frags) | | 258 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Left foot (good preservation) | 17 | 104 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Right arm (9 + frags) | 9 | 176 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Torso (very fragmented) | | 742 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Left leg (11 + frags) | 11 | 562 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK3 - Right leg (good preservation) (8 + frags) | | 496 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Right arm (good preservation) | 6 | 206 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Left leg (good preservation) (12 + frags) | 12 | 588 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | SK4 cranium - fragmented, teeth very worn (some missing). Few large pieces esp manible | | 286 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 left arm (some good presevation) (9 + frags) | 9 | 196 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Torso (not inc pelvis) (fragmented) | | 204 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Pelvis (some good preservation) (3 very large + frags) | 286 | 3 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Feet (mixed) some complete + frags | | 178 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Hands (mixed) (some good preservation) (40-50+ frags) | 50 | 64 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Cranium (20 -30 + frags) | 30 | 190 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | SK4 - Displaced bone from lower right ribcage area (frags) | | 2 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Unknown bone collected during excavation (frags) | | 22 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Torso (very fragmented) | | 270 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk4 - Right leg (well preserved femur) (7 large + frags) | 7 | 616 | Romano-British |
| 132 | Bone | Sk 5 - Unknown bone fragments (3 + frags) | 3 | 96 | Romano-British |
| 132 | Bone | Sk 5 - Feet (fragmented) | | 124 | Romano-British |
| 132 | Bone | Sk 5 - Right leg (2 + fragments) | 2 | 86 | Romano-British |
| 132 | Bone | Sk 5 -Left leg (fragmented) | | 94 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Cranium (very fragmented) | | 248 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Bone clump adjacent to lower left leg (small fragments) | 5 | 1 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|---|-------|--------|----------------|
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Left hand (fair preservation) | 7 | 10 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | SK 6 - Loose bone (some fingers & frags) | 40 | 30 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Left arm (11 large pieces) | 30 | 138 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Right hand (several complete finger bones) | 15 | 32 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Left foot (small fragments) | | 1 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Left leg (some large pieces, most very fragmented) | | 310 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Right arm (8 large + frags) | 8 | 130 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Right leg (5 large + frags) | 5 | 286 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Torso (very fragmented with few complete bones) | | 810 | Romano-British |
| 135 | Bone | Sk 6 - Right foot (fragmented) | | 44 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Cranium (fragmented) | | 38 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Left hand (very fragmented) | | 1 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 Right hand (2 + frags) | 2 | 4 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Frags & teeth | | 10 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | SK 7 - Right arm | 8 | 126 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Torso (frags) | | 70 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Left foot (11 + frags) | 11 | 68 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Left leg (large frags) | | 204 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Cranium (fragmented) | | 226 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Right foot (fragmented) | | 66 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Left leg (2 + frags) | 2 | 46 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Right leg (13 + frags) | 13 | 326 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Torso (frags) | | 556 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 7 - Left arm (3 + frags) | 3 | 56 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|---|-------|--------|----------------|
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Left leg (fragmented) | | 318 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 -Right leg (large pieces + frags) | | 390 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Left clavicle (2 + frags) | 2 | 2 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Hand bones / displaced in leg area (A) (good preservation) | 25 | 44 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Displaced bone in assoc with right leg (fragmented) | | 4 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Displaced bone in torso area (fragmented) | | 2 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Skull area after excavation (fragmented) (sieved sample 419) | | 30 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Feet | 31 | 92 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|--|-------|--------|----------------|
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Pelvis (torso) (fragmented) | | 128 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Vertebrae (torso) (fragmented) | | 6 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Ribs (torso) (very fragmented) | | 4 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 8 - Unknown bones (very fragmented) | | 38 | Romano-British |
| 138 | Bone | Sk 9 - Left leg (fragmented) | | 216 | Romano-British |
| 138 | Bone | Sk 9 - Right leg (3 + frags) | 3 | 230 | Romano-British |
| 138 | Bone | Sk 9 - Loose bone (fragmented) | | 12 | Romano-British |
| 138 | Bone | Sk 9 - Left foot (fragmented) | | 50 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|---|-------|--------|----------------|
| 138 | Bone | Sk 9 - Right foot (4 + frags) | 4 | 30 | Romano-British |
| 137 | Bone | Sk 11 - Unknown bone (fragmented) | | 4 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Right leg (very good preservation - cut mark on lower leg bone) | 6 | 574 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Left leg (17 + frags) | 17 | 572 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Left arm | 12 | 192 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Unknown bone (fragmented) | | 32 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Torso (sieved pieces) (very fragmented) | | 88 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Right arm (7 + frag) | 7 | 218 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|---|-------|--------|----------------|
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Right hand (includes poss some of SK 7 right hand) | 7 | 4 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Right foot (11 + frags) | 11 | 108 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Left foot (good preservation) | 22 | 152 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk12 - Left hand (good preservation) | 14 | 42 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Displaced hand bones (good preservation) | 3 | 4 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk12 - Bone fragments inc 2 finger bones | | 8 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk 12 - Cranium (fragmented) | | 454 | Romano-British |
| 121 | Bone | Sk12 - Torso (some large, most fragmented - cut mark on pelvis) | | 1433 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|
| 121 | Bone | Sk12 - Torso (cont) (fragmented) | | 396 | Romano-British |
| 122 | Bone | Sk13 - Digit (toe or finger?) | 1 | 1 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Left leg (fragmented) | | 36 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Torso (fragmented) | | 28 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Right leg (fragmented) | | 40 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Cranium (fragmented) | | 2 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Feet (<1g fragmented) | | 1 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Left hand (<1g - fragmented) | | 1 | Romano-British |

| Context | Find Type | Description | Count | Weight | Context Date |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Right arm (4 + frags) | 4 | 12 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Pelvis (5 + frags) | 5 | 30 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Left arm (fragmented) | | 4 | Romano-British |
| 147 | Bone | Sk14 - Displaced bone (fragmented) | | 8 | Romano-British |

