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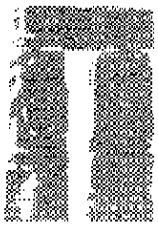
A303 - SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER ROAD IMPROVEMENT:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Wessex Archaeology

A303 - SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER ROAD IMPROVEMENT:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

REPORT No. W530.02
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Prepared on behalf of:
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South West Regional Office
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Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd Registered Charity No. 287786

A303 - SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER ROAD IMPROVEMENT : ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Following a series of archaeological studies and geophysical surveys along the route of the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester road improvement it was decided to carry out a more detailed site evaluation of four areas along the proposed route. These areas were examined using machine cut trenches. Three of the areas, Conegore Corner (ST 5795 2530), to the north of Pepper Hill Copse (ST 5920 2560) and to the south of Camel Hill House (ST 5885 2555), produced only very limited evidence of archaeological activity.

The fourth area, adjacent to Camel Hill Farm (ST 5845 2550), produced evidence of Early Iron Age activity in addition to evidence for three structures and a number of associated deposits of 3rd to 4th century AD date. These deposits included one cremation burial.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was financed by the Department of Transport and commissioned by their agents Veryard and Partners. Wessex Archaeology are grateful to Colin Riley and Hugh Llewelyn of Veryard and Partners for all their assistance. We would also like to thank the landowners Mr T Turner and Mr E Feather without whose assistance and co-operation the work could not have been completed. The fieldwork was directed by Duncan Coe with the assistance of Rachel Seager-Smith, Vaughan Birbeck and Alan Graham. The report was compiled by Duncan Coe, Rachel Seager-Smith and Richard Newman. The illustrations were drawn by Liz James. The project was managed by Richard Newman.

A303 - SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER ROAD IMPROVEMENT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

The field evaluation reported on within this document represents a further stage in the continuing assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposed upgrading of the A303 trunk road between the Sparkford and Ilchester bypasses.

1.1.1. Initially a report was written based on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). This was examined for known sites and a pre-defined study area was visited, by means of public rights of way only, to determine the condition of the sites located (Chowne 1990). A series of aerial photographs could not be consulted due to restrictions imposed on aerial reconnaissance in the area, as a consequence of the close proximity of the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton. At the time of the initial report's writing site specific proposals were advanced for each site identified within the study area (Chowne 1990). Subsequently, and following the decision upon the preferred route, it was advocated by Wessex Archaeology that a watching brief and field observations should be carried out during the geotechnical investigations. These observations, combined with the proposals for site specific field evaluation, led to targeted fieldwork being undertaken along the preferred route. This involved examination of the geotechnic trial pits during excavation, by a representative of AC Archaeology. At the same time AC Archaeology scanned any ploughed fields along the preferred route to retrieve any surface artefacts, and visually inspected the remainder of the preferred route to detect any previously unrecorded earthworks (Cox 1992).

1.1.2. At OS reference ST 580 253, near Conegore Corner, cropmarks noted from aerial photographs were listed in the SMR. As a result this site was subjected to a geophysical survey in an attempt to glean more information about the site's nature and extent (Ovenden 1992). Following Geotechnic investigations, various other field observations and consultations with English Heritage and Somerset County Council, further geophysical surveys were carried out along large parts of the route in an attempt to identify and more closely define areas of archaeological interest (Noel 1993).

1.1.3. This most recent geophyisical work led to four areas being chosen for further limited ground intervention techniques (Fig. 1) in order to adequately define the exact nature and extent of their archaeological potential. Area A was located at Conegore Corner (ST 5795 2530) and its potential was recognised from a series of cropmarks and a range of anomalies detected during geophysical survey. Area B was located to the west of Camel Hill Farm (ST 5845 2550) where a single linear feature associated with pottery of the Iron Age and Roman periods was found during excavation of the geotechnic trial pits and geophysical survey located a number of potential

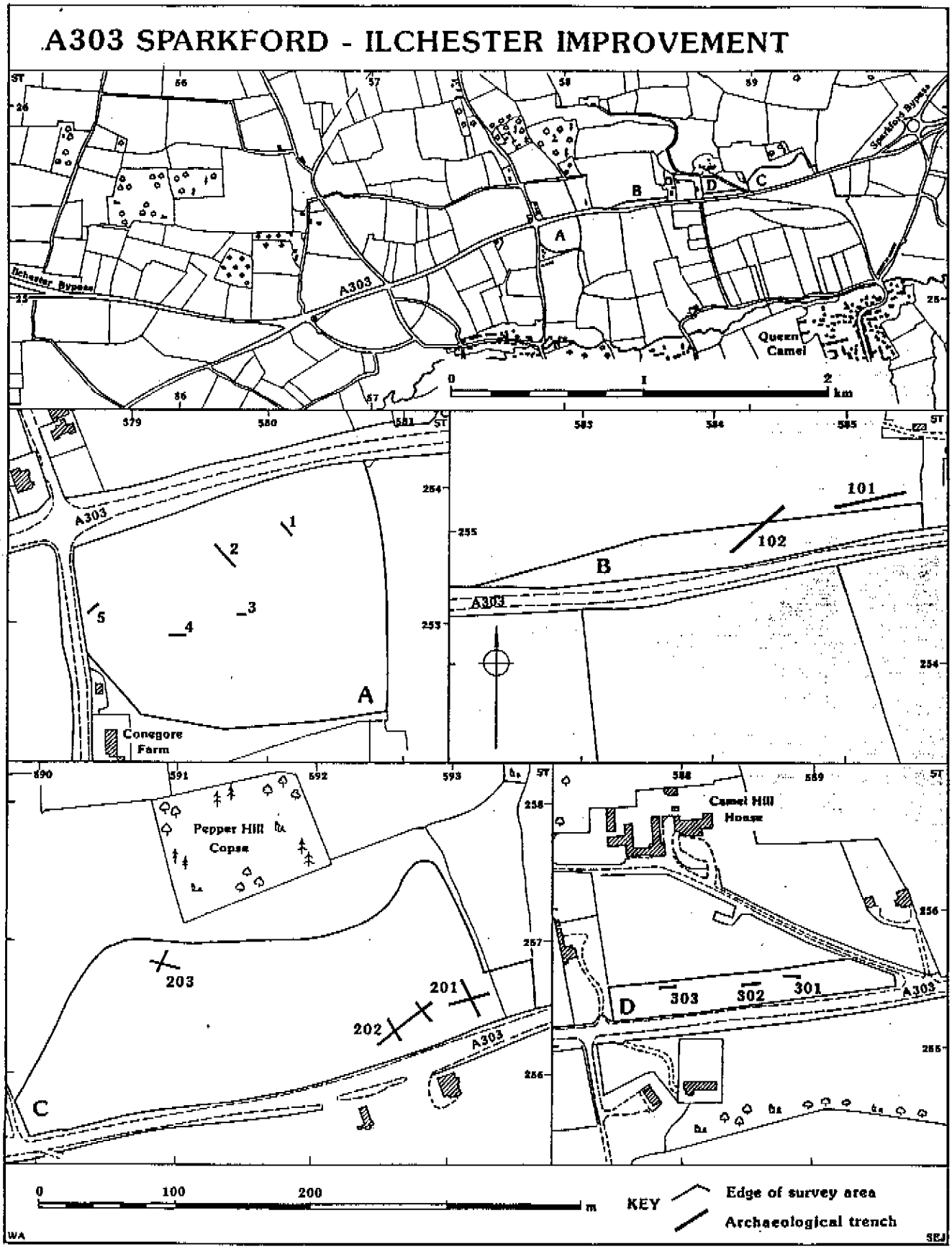

Fig.1: Location of site and trenches

archaeological features. Area C was located in a large field to the south of Pepper Hill Copse (ST 5920 2560). A small number of anomalies, possibly representing hut circles were found in this area during geophysical survey. Area D was located to the south of Camel Hill House (ST 5885 2555) in a small paddock where a series of earthworks survived.

1.2 Geology and Topography

All the areas being investigated lie on the top (areas B and D) or on the sides (areas A and C) of a pronounced ridge of Middle Lias limestone surrounded by relatively flat areas underlain by Lower Lias limestone. This ridge rises to a maximum height of approximately 80m OD and is aligned East-West.

1.2.1. Areas A and D were under pasture at the time of the survey, area A being used for hay and area D being used as a horse paddock. Areas B and C were both under winter wheat.

2. FIELDWORK

2.1 Evaluation Methodology

As previously stated (see section 1.1 above) the fieldwork was specifically designed to investigate areas where previous surveys had identified a high archaeological potential. This stage of investigation involved trenching by machine using a flat grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Machining was halted where natural or archaeological deposits were encountered and where necessary cleaning then took place by hand to reveal archaeological deposits.

2.1.1. The amount of machining differed depending on the type of site to be investigated (Fig. 1). In areas B and C the trenches were closely targeted in order to locate specific anomalies recognised during the geophysical survey. Area A was to be subject to a minimum 2% sample with the trenches located to investigate anomalies located during geophysical survey and cropmarks plotted from aerial photographs. Area D was also to be subject to a minimum 2% sample with the trenches located randomly across the earthworks in this area.

2.1.2. All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* recording system. All trenches were planned onto location plans and all archaeological deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20. Representative sections of all trenches were drawn at 1:10 scale. A full photographic record was made of the investigations. Heights have been calculated relative to ordnance datum using benchmarks located on the trig point located on the hill to the south of the Happy Eater services (height 80.22m OD, ST 5922 2550) and at the northern end of Howell Hill, adjacent to Conegore Corner (height 51.95m OD, ST 5786 2535).

2.1.3. Where archaeological deposits were encountered in area B these were cleaned by hand and recorded. As good dating evidence in the form of pottery was common

from cleaning of these trenches it was decided that rather than do further damage to the deposits no further excavation should take place. Features were thus only recorded in plan and not seen in section.

3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

Full details of all trenches excavated and all deposits encountered can be found in appendix 1. A summary of the results will be presented here.

3.1 Area A (Site A303.16)

A total of five trenches totalling 86m² were excavated across this field. Apart from modern land drains located in trenches 2 and 4 no deposits of certain archaeological origin were encountered. A calcareous deposit was found in trench 4 which was also considerably deeper than the other trenches in this area. The origins of this deposit are unknown but the fact that it is cut by a field drain suggest that it is not modern.

3.2 Area B (Site A303.19)

Two trenches totalling 153m² were excavated in this area. A considerable number of archaeological deposits were found in these trenches. These deposits are described in order running from east to west.

3.2.1. In trench 101 (Fig. 2) twenty layers/deposits of probable archaeological origin were recorded. Eleven metres from the eastern end of this trench was found a single wall aligned north-east to south-west with no other associated features. This may represent the eastern edge of the site. Twenty-two metres further west a single cremation burial was recovered. This was placed in a vessel of 3rd-4th century AD date and found near by was a limestone roof tile which had been used as a lid for the burial. At the western end of the trench were found the walls of what must have been two small buildings. These were both rectangular and were aligned north-east to south-west. The eastern one was approximately three metres wide and the western one was approximately two and a half metres wide, the length of either could not be discerned. Associated with these buildings were a number of demolition/collapse layers, possible surface/floor layers and two possible post-holes/pits. All the pottery from this area suggests a date of occupation in the 3rd-4th centuries.

3.2.2. Trench 102 (Fig. 2) was located to the west of the first trench. This trench produced a total of 19 layers/deposits of probable archaeological origin. At the eastern end of the trench a possible backfilled quarry was recorded. In the middle of the trench were a number of features indicative of the former presence of a substantial building. A pair of parallel walls, the eastern (169) 0.80m wide and the western (164) 0.65m wide, both bonded with a gravely mortar, indicates a structure with a total width of approximately five and a half metres and aligned north-west to south-east. These walls closely match those plotted by the geophysical survey (Fig. 3) (Noel 1993). Associated with these walls were found floor surfaces and demolition/collapse

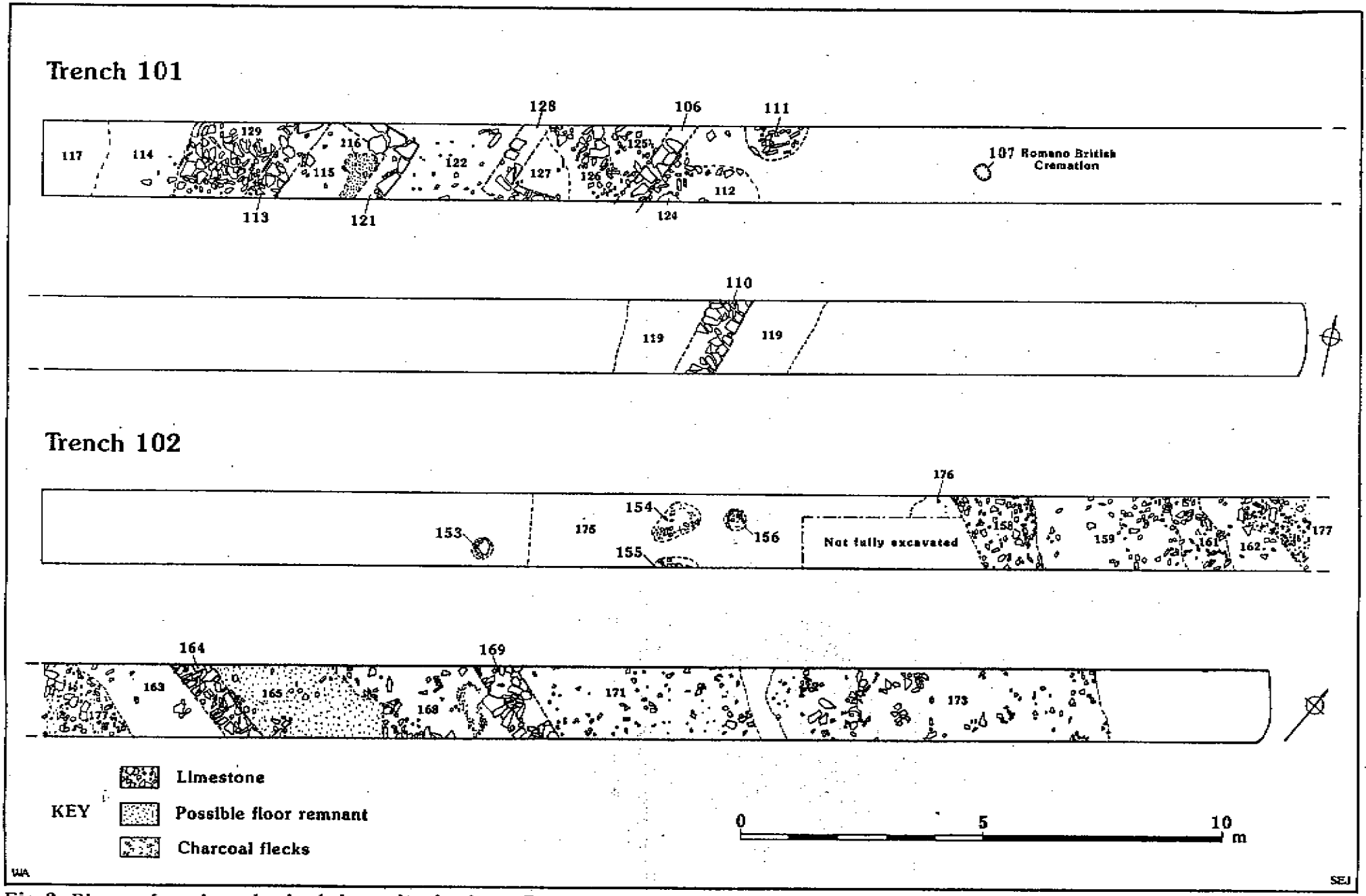

Fig.2: Plans of archaeological deposits in Area B

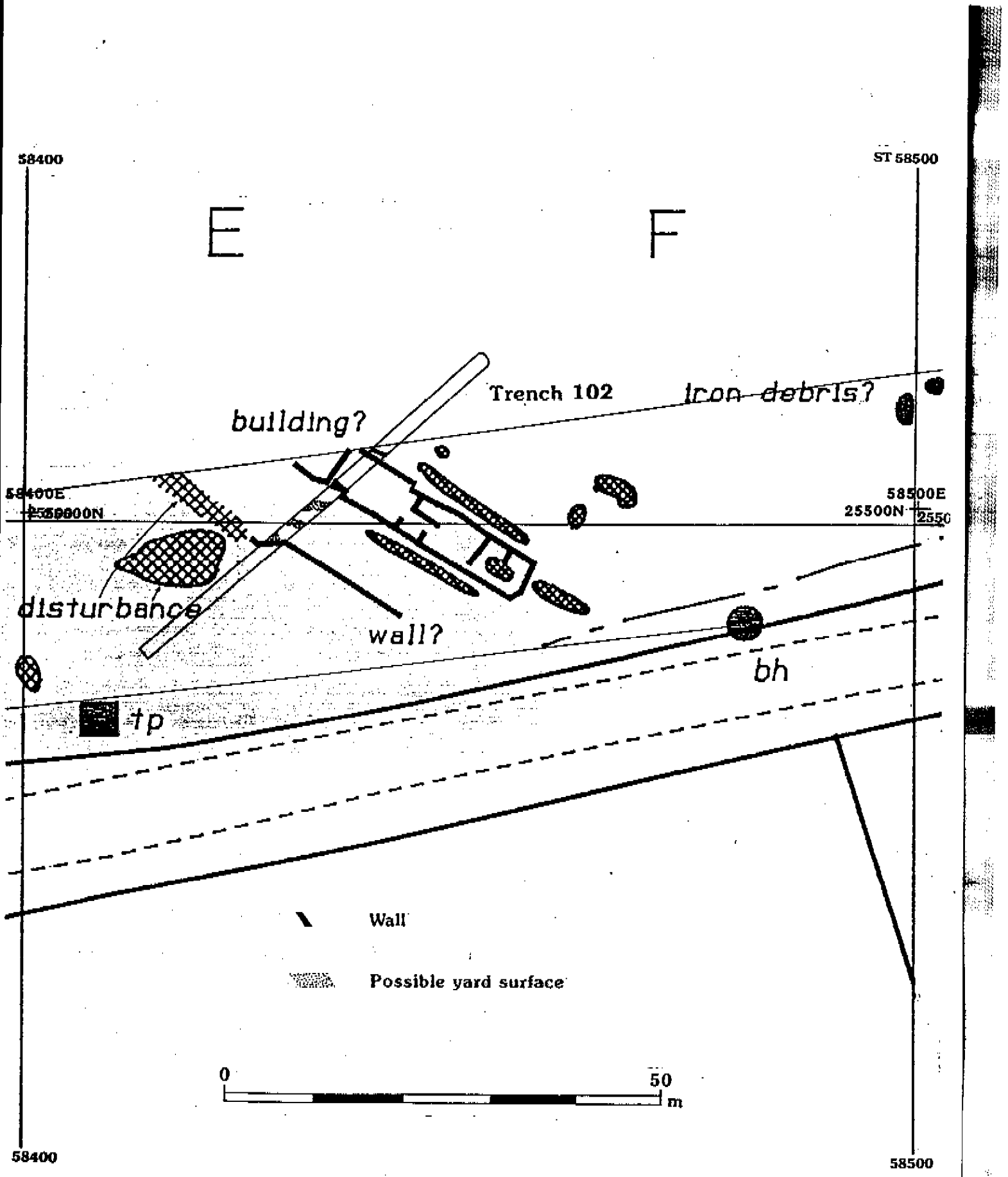

Fig.3: Comparative plans of geophysical and excavation results

layers. To the west of this building a number of layers were found which suggest the presence of a yard surface perhaps ten metres wide. All these deposits were associated with pottery indicating a date of occupation from the late 2nd/3rd into the 4th century AD.

3.2.3. At the western end of trench 102 were found four small features associated with much burning which are probably post-holes and small pits. Pottery found during cleaning across the top of these features suggest that the activity in this area is of Early Iron Age date (7th-6th century BC).

3.3 Area C (Site A303.29)

Three areas of trenching were undertaken in this field totalling 275m², two in the south-east corner and one adjacent to the south-west corner of Pepper Hill Copse. No deposits or artefacts of archaeological origin were encountered in this area.

3.4 Area D (Site A303.24)

Three trenches were located in this area totalling 48m². These trenches were placed across a series of earthworks but no deposits or artefacts of archaeological origin were encountered.

4. FINDS

4.1 Introduction

All the artefacts recovered during this fieldwork derive from Area B, Camel Hill Farm. The objects have been quantified by material type, number and weight by context (Appendix 2) and have been scanned in order to identify and, where possible, to date them. The collection is considered by material category below.

4.2 Iron objects

Iron objects represent the only metalwork recovered from the site. Eleven fragments were found, all from trench 102. The objects comprise three hand-made nails, with rounded heads and square-sectioned, tapering shafts, three nail shank fragments, one small triangular-headed tack and one possible knife blade fragment. A Romano-British date is most likely for all these objects in the absence of later diagnostic material. The remaining three fragments are unidentifiable.

4.3 Pottery

A total of 509 sherds (5115g) was recovered (Appendix 2). All the material from trench 101 is of later Romano-British date, from the late 2nd to 4th centuries AD, while the sherds recovered from trench 102 include material of similar date as well as sherds dating from the Early Iron Age (*c.* 7th to 6th century BC).

4.3.1. In general the condition of the assemblage is good although, with the exception of the sherds from the Romano-British cremation vessels, the mean sherd size, especially amongst the Iron Age material, is small. However, the nature of Iron Age and Romano-British ceramic assemblages in this area is well known from sites such as South Cadbury (Alcock 1980), Ham Hill ((Pearson and Ellison, 1977; Morris 1987) and Ilchester (Leach, 1982), enabling the material from Camel Hill Farm to be fitted within the known sequence for the area.

4.4 Early Iron Age Pottery

A total of 119 Iron Age sherds (609g) was recovered, all derived from the western part of trench 102, most notably in the area of the four small features showing considerable burning. No attempt has been made to define the individual fabric types which clearly exist amongst the material, the assemblage has only been divided into broad fabric groups. The majority of sherds occur in coarse and moderate fossil shell tempered fabrics with occasional sherds in a fine shell and organic-tempered ware and a fine, flint-gritted fabric also being noted. This dominance of shell-tempered fabrics is paralleled at South Cadbury (Alcock 1980) and at Ham Hill (Pearson and Ellison,1977; Morris 1987) both situated on limestone where the fossil shell used as temper occurs. At Ilchester (Ellison 1982, 125), located on gravels and an alluvial river plain, these wares occur only in very small amounts, reflecting the highly localised nature of ceramic production at this time.

4.4.1. Vessel forms are similar to those found in the Cadbury 5/6 phase (7th-6th centuries BC; Alcock 1980, 689-694) and at Ilchester (Ellison 1982, 125). Finger-tipped impressed shouldered jars comparable with examples from South Cadbury (Alcock 1980, fig. 14.E992A.1), simple and flat-topped ovoid jars, proto-saucepan pots and undiagnostic/vertical rim jars are present (Fig. 4, 1, 2 and 5). Sherds decorated with deep, parallel slashes, also from shouldered jar form (Fig. 4, 6) and similar to a vessel from Ilchester (Ellison 1982, fig. 61a, 39) were noted. A rim from a bead rim jar (Fig. 4, 3), which if alone might be indicative of a later Iron Age date, was also present. However, this form can be broadly paralleled at Ilchester (Ellison 1982, fig. 61a, 17, 24, 29, 42) and its association with other the early Iron Age forms noted above confirms its position within this date range. The occurrence of thin-walled sherds in moderate shell tempered fabrics also hints at the presence of bowl forms in these wares. True "finewares" of this period are represented by body sherds from carinated bowls, rims from a long-necked bowl (Fig. 4, 4) and a decorated body sherd from a heamatite-coated furrowed bowl in the fine-grained shelly/organic fabric.

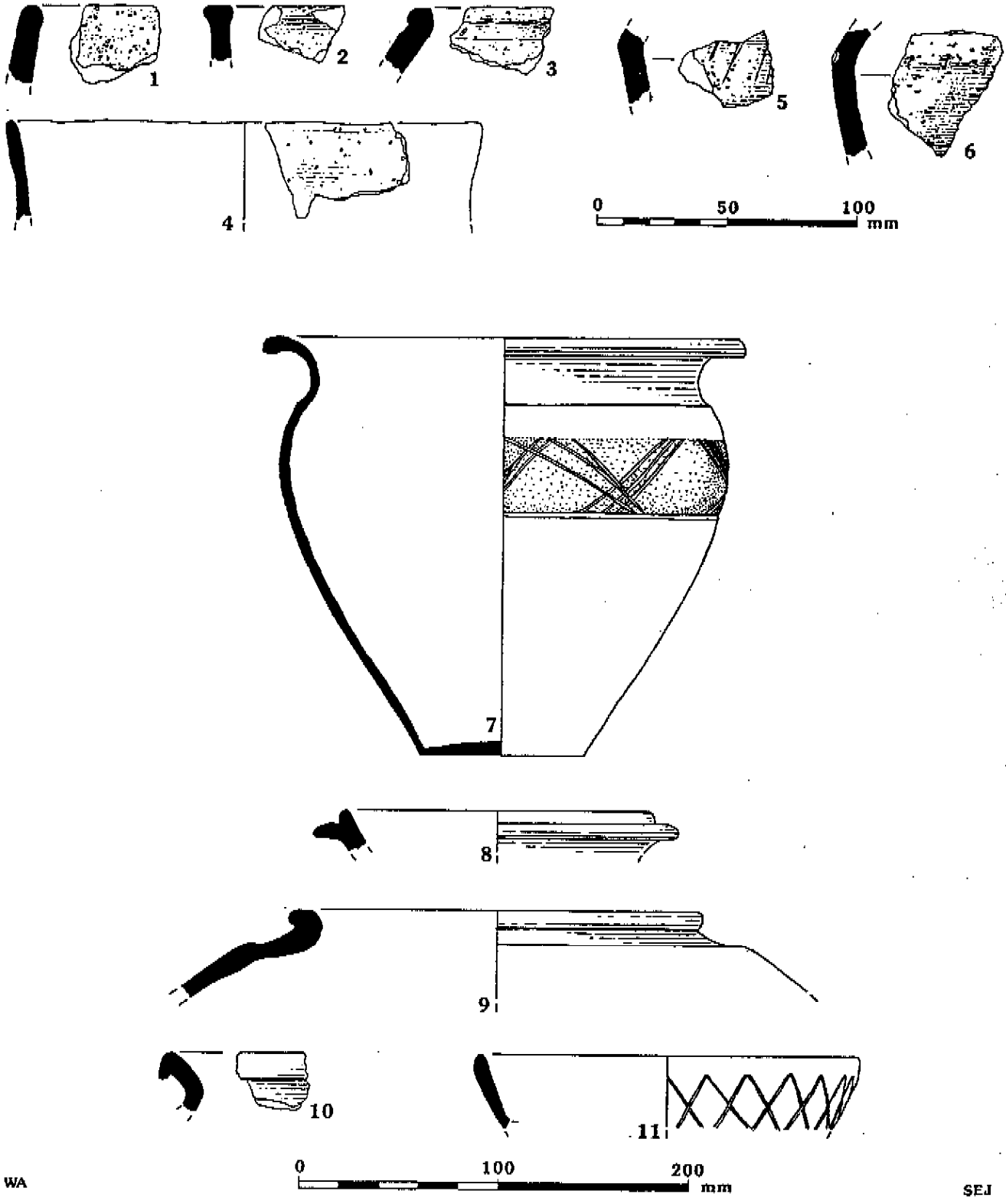

Fig.4: Iron Age and Romano British pottery from Area B

4.5 Romano-British Pottery

A total of 390 Romano-British sherds (4506g) was found, including 191 sherds from the area of the cremation burial in trench 101. Fifty of these were derived from the vessel (Fig. 4, 7) containing the cremated bone. No exact parallels have been found for this vessel which occurs in a hard, wheel-made, coarse quartz gritted fabric although it is likely to be of late Roman date. Perhaps of a similar date to the cremation contained in a pottery vessel found at Sparkford Hill, 1.5km to the south-east (Leech 1980, 359). The remaining sherds from this area consist of Black Burnished ware from at least two everted rim jar forms of late 3rd to 4th century AD type (Davies and Seager Smith 1993, 231, type 3). The relationship between these vessels and the cremation is unfortunately unknown although if these vessels were associated with it they may offer a more precise date range for the cremation itself. The cremation vessel can best be described as a jar and this may indicate that this was a single vessel cremation. It has been illustrated that where there is a single vessel then it is usually a jar which is used as the cinerary urn (Philpot 1991, 35).

4.5.1. Amongst the remainder of the assemblage, only seven fineware sherds were recognised, consisting of 3rd - 4th century AD colour-coated wares from the Oxford (five sherds) and New Forest (two sherds) regions. Although present at Ilchester (Leach 1982), amphora, mortaria, samian and other imported finewares were completely absent from this assemblage, indicating that the occupation at Camel Hill Farm may not have been of particularly high status. The majority of coarseware sherds are Black Burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour region of Dorset and other coarseware fabrics well paralleled at Ilchester (Leach 1982, 141-142, fabrics Gi, Gii and CW), and dated from the 2nd century AD onwards there. The local coarseware fabrics are mostly represented by body sherds from large storage jars, occasionally decorated with incised horizontal grooves and burnished-line lattice. One hooked rim from a large sandy greyware jar (Fig. 4, 10) is broadly similar to a vessel from Ilchester (Leach 1982, fig. 71, 199) and a high-shouldered bead rim jar (Fig. 4, 9) sherd in a similar fabric was also noted. The Black Burnished ware forms include everted rim jars, a "dog-dish" (Fig. 4, 11) and a dropped-flange bowl/dish rim (Fig. 4, 8; Davies and Seager Smith 1993, 231 types 2 and 3, 20 and 25 respectively), all forms dating from the later 2nd into the 4th century AD.

4.6 Ceramic Building Materials

Thirteen fragments (396g) of ceramic building material were recovered. These include fragments of *tegulae* and *inbrex*, suggesting the use of ceramic roof tiles somewhere in the vicinity during the Romano-British period although other, undiagnostic pieces may be of more recent date.

4.7 Worked Stone

Two worked stone objects were recovered. A diamond shaped limestone roof-tile, 0.30m long and 0.20m wide with a 0.05m diameter counter-sunk peg hole, was found in the area of the cremation burial. This has a circular mark, 0.12m in diameter

matching the diameter of the rim of the cremation vessel. Traces of a pottery fabric were found in this ring and this tile was probably re-used as a cover for one of the vessels. A large rectangular block, 0.39m long, 0.20m wide and 0.12m thick, of oolitic limestone with a semi-circular channel cut longitudinally into, and taking up most of, one surface was found in wall 164 in trench 102. The block has been carefully dressed, but its original function could not be discerned.

4.8 Fired Clay

Considerable quantities of small fired clay pieces were noted during the cleaning of both trenches, especially amongst the demolition/collapse layers in the western end of trench 101. Not all of these were collected being in a very soft, friable condition but 19 fragments (92g) were retained. None of the pieces preserve diagnostic features and it is likely that this material is derived from collapsed building structures of Romano-British date.

4.9 Worked Flint

A single flake of worked flint was found in trench 102. It cannot be dated

4.10 Animal Bone

A total of 93 fragments (437g) of animal bone was collected, predominantly from trench 102. None of the bone has been submitted for species identification or analysis but one small fragment of worked bone with part of a perforation surviving, has been recognised.

4.11 Human Bone

A total of 1745g of cremated human bone was recovered and retained. No analysis has been undertaken but the potential for establishing the number of individuals, age, sex etc remains.

4.12 Marine Shell

A single left valve of an oyster, with light parasitic infestation, was found among the collapse/demolition deposits in the western end of trench 101.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation has produced strong evidence for archaeological remains on one of the areas examined (Area B) whilst the other three areas (Areas A, C and D) have little or no evidence for any activity of archaeological interest.

5.1.1. Evidence of prehistoric activity on Camel Hill (Area B) had already been discovered during the examination of a geotechnic trial pit in this area. The results of the machine trenching indicate that these finds were not isolated and that this site was occupied during the Early Iron Age. What form this site took and how extensive it was to the north and south we cannot at present say. To the west geophysical suirvey indicates a tailing off of activity and to the east it suggests that later prehistoric activity may be associated with a ring dittch (Noel 1993), although no evidence of this was found in the excavated trenches.

5.1.2. The Roman site located on Camel Hill was certainly a substantial one covering an area approximately 130m in length along the northern side of the A303. At least three building were recorded during the evaluation and the evidence from the geophysical survey indicates that the main building, in trench 102, was substantial with several rooms surviving. Most of the walls recorded appeared to be in fairly good condition and whilst some building rubble was located, this was not found in large quantities. It is possible that these were dwarf walls upon which timber structures would have stood. The alternative possibility that the walls were constructed of stone and were robbed before the buildings had collapsed should also be considered. The presence of a stone roof tile covering the cremation may indicate that this was the roofing material used on these buildings. However, whilst some flat stones found around the site may indicate the presence of further stone roof tiles, no other roof tiles with peg holes were found and it is therefore difficult to state for certain what the roofing material used on these buildings would have been.

5.1.3. The nature of the Roman settlement on this site is open to debate and, without having any firm evidence from detailed excavation, it is probably to early to make any definite conclusions. However, the apparent substantial nature and multiple room form of the main building may lead one to the conclusion that this is a 'Villa' site, but recent opinion has swung away from applying this term to all rural Roman sites of this type (Hingley 1989). The absence of any obvious wealth on the site, even when considering the lack of excavation, in the form of coins, metalwork, fine pottery and elaborate architectural features, suggests that this might be regarded as a 'non-villa settlement'. This is reinforced by the lack of hypocaust fragments, or any evidence for painted wall plaster or mosaic 'tessera'. However, it is well known that metal objects in particular are often difficult to identify during machine trenching evaluations and work elsewhere as at Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, has shown that many ordinary non-villa sites have a wealth of metal artefacts including coins. The presence or absence of such in an evaluation of this type should not be taken to be significant therefore. On balance the main building is perhaps best seen as being more akin to the multi-room 'cottage' type of structure rather than a 'Villa'. This should not detract from the sites importance however, the presence of a site of this nature within the Ilchester hinterland, an area already well known for the density of its Romano-British rural settlement pattern (Aston and Burrows 1992), increases the potential importance of this site.

5.1.4. The cremation burial is likely to be a representative of a wider cemetery. Such burials are quite rare in Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire, but where they do occur they are invariably simple in form. Some of these occurrences are like this example and that from nearby Sparkford Hill, late in date for Romano-British cremations (Philpot 1991, 41).

5.1.5. The good state of preservation of the walls on this site is mainly due to the extremely shallow nature of the soil at the western end of trench 102. At this point the topsoil was only 0.20m deep and lies directly on solid limestone bedrock. As a result this has forced the farmer to shallow plough only this area of the field. So whilst the land has been under arable cultivation for some time the annual ploughing has thus far caused little or no damage to the archaeological deposits.

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APPENDIX 1: CATALOGUE OF TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

AREA 'A'

Trench 1. Ground level: 54.83m OD (NW); 54.11m OD (SE); 11m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.40m		
11	0-0.30m	Topsoil, greyish brown clay loam
12	0.30m+	Natural, light brown silty clay with over 40% weathered limestone

Trench 2. Ground level: 51.69m OD (NW); 51.29m OD (SE); 19m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.49m.		
23	0-0.25m	Topsoil, greyish brown silty loam
24	0.25m+	Natural, brown silty clay, with c. 20% weathered limestone
25	Land drain running NE-SW across trench, lined with irregular limestone blocks	

Trench 3. Ground level: 49.01m OD (E); 48.86m OD (W); 6.5m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.45m.		
13	0-0.30m	Topsoil, greyish brown silty loam
14	0.30m +	Natural, brown silty clay

Trench 4. Ground level; 46.62m OD (E); 46.65m OD (W); 11m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 1.00m.		
15	0-0.17m	Topsoil, greyish brown clay loam
16	0.17-0.45m	Light brown sandy silt clay, frequent patches of calcarious material
17	0.45-0.65m	White calcarious (chalk?) deposit
18	0.65-0.79m	Light blue grey silty clay, some weathered limestone
19	0.79m+	Light brown silty clay, with weathered bedrock
26	Land drain aligned NW-SE, filled with irregular pieces of limestone	

Trench 5. Ground level; 48.55m OD (S); 49.18m OD (N); 10m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.55m.		
20	0-0.23m	Topsoil, greyish brown clay loam
21	0.23-0.49m	Light brown silty caly with eathered limestone
22	0.49m +	Light blue grey silty clay with common calcarious materila throughout, weathered limestone present

AREA 'B'

Archaeological layers/features are described in order from east to west along the trench. As a deliberate policy of the investigation was to leave undisturbed as much of the site as possible few stratigraphic relationships have been identified.

Trench 101. Ground level: 71.23m OD (E); 71.31m OD (W); 51m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.30m.		
108	0-0.20m	Topsoil, dark greyish brown clay loam, very occasional limestone fragments present
109/123	0.20-0.35m	Subsoil, yellowish brown silty clay, common fragments of limestone throughout layer
119	Light greyish brown layer of clay loam with 20-30% weathered limestone. Lies either side of wall 110 in a linear strip, possibly fill of a slight hollow, 4m wide.	
110	Wall aligned NE-SW. Made up of limestone blocks up to 0.15m in size. Only a single course 0.80m wide survives.	
105	Cremation burial. Fill of a small cut (107) comprises two pottery vessels and a large amount of burnt bone. A significant amount of pottery, bone and a roof tile, apparently re-used as a lid for the cremation pot, was recovered from the spoil heap and recorded as 104.	
107	Cut for the cremation burial. A roughly circular cut excavated through solid limestone bedrock, it was 0.25m in diameter and 0.16m deep.	
111	A dark greyish brown silty loam layer with large limestone blocks found in a semi-circular area against the N edge of the trench. Has a possible diameter of 0.60m. Many of the limestone blocks are laid upright around the edge of the layer suggesting they may be some kind of post packing.	
112	A brownish yellow sandy clay layer with common gravel content. Some limestone blocks also present in layer. Sand and gravel content indicate that this may be mortar and demolition rubble or a former surface.	
124	A small semi-circular layer against the southern edge of the trench comprised of a dark brownish grey lay loam. Appears to cut 112 and layer contains a piece of Tegula which was left in situ.	
106	Wall comprised of a single course of limestone blocks up to 0.40m in size. This runs NE-SW across the trench, is 0.45m wide and is probaly part of the same structure as wall 128 to its west.	
125	Layer of light greyish brown clay loam with up to 20% weathered limestone. Layer also contains possible decayed mortar and charcoal which may indicate that this is a demolition/collapse layer immediately to the west of wall 106.	
126	Layer of brownish grey clay loam with up to 20% weathered limestone. Very occasional mortar fragments and charcoal.	
127	Layer of light greyish brown clay loam with up to 20% weathered limestone. Layer also contains possible decayed mortar and charcoal which may indicate that this is a demolition/collapse layer immediately to the east of wall 128.	
128	Wall comprised of a single course of limestone blocks up to 0.40m in size. This runs NE-SW across the trench and is 0.70m wide. It turns through a right angle to the SE. This is probably part of the same structure as wall 106.	
122	Layer of brownish grey clay loamwith up to 40% wathered limestone. Layer also conatains small amounts of charcoal, decayed mortar and burnt limestone.	

Area 'B' Con't

121	Wall comprised of a single course of limestone blocks up to 0.60m in size. Runs NE-SW across trench and turns through a right angle at its NE end to run out of trench to the NW. Inner edge of wall in very poor condition, robbed ? Probably part of the same structure as wall 113 to the west.	
116	Layer of brownish yellow silty sand with large amounts of gravel and occasional limestone. Gravel component may indicate that this is a patch of former floor/surface.	
115	Layer of brown silty clay with large amounts of gravel and occasional limestone. Gravel component may indicate that this is a former floor/surface.	
113	Wall comprised of a single course of limestone blocks up to 0.45m in size. Runs NE-SW across the trench. This is probably part of the same structure as wall 121.	
129	Layer of dark greyish brown clay loam with over 40% irregular limestone rubble. May represent collapse from adjacent wall 113 but may also be a yard/path surface as it has a very sharp W boundary.	
114	Layer of brown silty loam soil with gravel and limestone blocks. Partially overlay layer 129. May be a remnant of a former surface/path or be demolition/collapse debris.	
117	Layer of yellowish brown silty clay with up to 50% gravel. Possibly the remnants of a former surface.	
118	0.35m+	Natural limestone bedrock, outcrops in two places in trench.

Trench 102. Ground level: 71.88m OD (E); 72.40m OD (W); 51m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.38m.		
150	0-0.25m	Topsoil, very dark greyish brown clay loam.
174	0.25-0.35m	Subsoil, yellowish brown clay loam with occasional limestone fragments.
173	Layer of dark brown clay loam with large amounts of limestone and weathered limestone gravel. Possibly fills a large pit cut into the natural limestone, 172.	
171	Layer of dark grey clay loam with large amounts of weathered limestone and some yellow gravel. Possibly debris from collapse of wall 169.	
169	Wall comprised of a single course of pitched limestone blocks up to 0.45m in size. Runs NW-SE across trench and is 0.80m wide. Some mortar comprised of sand and gravel appears to be present in wall. Is probably part of the same structure as wall 164 which lies 5.00m to the west.	
168	Layer of very dark grey silty loam lying adjacent to wall 169. This layer contains large amounts of charcoal and up to 20% limestone blocks.	
165	Layer of yellowish brown sandy gravel, occasional limestone fragments. Gravel may be a remnant of a floor/surface or may be the result of demolition/collapse of the adjacent wall, 164.	
164	Wall comprised of a single course of pitched limestone blocks up to 0.30m in size. Runs NW-SE across trench and is 0.65m wide. Is probaly part of the same structure as wall 169 which lies 5.00m to the east.	
163	Layer of dark greyish brown clay loam with up to 20% weathered limestone. lies up against wall 164.	

Area 'B' Con't

177	Layer of limestone rubble. This may be outcropping natural but may also be the remnants of a yard surface which includes layers 161 and 158.	
162	Layer of brownish grey clay loam with less than 10% limestone. May be a remnat of natural subsoil.	
161	Layer of brownish grey clay loam with over 30% limestone including large flat rounded blocks. May be the remnant of a yard surface which includes layers 177 and 158.	
159	Layer of light brown clay loam with occasional limestone. Possibly a remnant of natural subsoil.	
158	Layer of greyish brown clay loam with over 30% limestone. May be a remnant of a yard surface which includes layers 177 and 161.	
157	Layer of dark brownish grey clay loamwith up to 15% weathered limestone. Remnant of topsoil/subsoil lying in a slight hollow, lays above 176 and 175.	
176	Layer of greyish brown clay loam with occasional limeston. Only a small area exposed.	
175	Layer of up to 90% limestone with some greyish brown clay loam. Unclear whether this is weathered natural or not, but appears to be cut by several features of archaeological origin.	
156	Small circular patch of very dark grey silty loam. Charcoal and possibly burnt limestone are present. The shape and the presence of possible post packing suggest that this is a post-hole.	
155	Semi-circular patch of very dark grey silty loam against the southern edge of the trench. Charcoal and possible burnt limestone are present within layer. The shape and presence of possible post packing suggest that this is a post whole.	
154	Large oval patch of dark grey clay loam with weathered limestone fragments. Charcoal and bone present in top of this layer. Possibly a post-hole or small pit.	
153	Small patch apparently burnt material, mostly natural limestone but some clay loam soil present. Charcoal common. Location of a small fire?	
152	0.30m+	Weathered limestone natural at the western end of the trench.
151	0.20m+	Natural limestone bedrock at western end of the trench.

AREA 'C'

Trench 200. Cross shaped trench. N-S arm; ground level: 57.84m OD (N); 60.31m OD (S); 30m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.86m. E-W arm; ground level: 58.96m OD (E); 59.28m OD (W); 30m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.40m.		
215	0-0.24m	Topsoil, light brown clay loam
216	0.24-0.44m	Subsoil, yellowish brown silty clay loam
217	0.44-0.79m	Subsoil, brownish yellow silty clay
218	0.79+	Greenish/brownish yellow silty clay

Trench 201. NE-SW aligned trench with two short cross arms. NE-SW trench; ground level: 59.82m OD (NE); 63.15m OD (SW); 45m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.30m. NE cross arm; ground level: 61.19m OD (SE); 59.87m OD (NW); 18m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.30m. SW cross arm; ground level 61.49m OD (NW); 63.15m OD (SW); 19m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.30m.		
210	0-0.29m	Topsoil, greyish brown caly loam
211	0.29m+	Subsoil, yellowish brown clay

Trench 202. Cross shaped trench. NE-SW arm; ground level: 59.68m OD (NE); 60.61m OD (SW); 19m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.80m. NW-SE arm; ground level: 60.31m OD (NW); 60.27m OD (SE); 19m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.35m.		
212	0-0.23m	Topsoil, dark brown clay loam, very occasional small limestone fragments
213	0.23-0.66m	Subsoil, orange brown clay, very occasional small limestone fragments
214	0.66-0.80m	Subsoil, Greenish/brownish yellow silty clay
219	0.80m+	Limestone bedrock

AREA 'D'

Trench 301. Ground level: 73.88m OD (E); 73.68m OD (W); 10m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.35m.		
310	0-0.15m	Topsoil, Dark greyish brown silty loam, very occasional small pieces of limestone
311	0.15-0.35m	Subsoil, brown fine silt, up to 50% weathered limestone fragments
312	0.35m+	Natural limestone bedrock

Trench 302. Ground level: 73.74m OD (E); 73.84m OD (W); 12m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.30m.		
313	0-0.15m	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty loam, very occasional small limestone fragments
314	0.15-0.30m	Subsoil, brown fine silt, up to 50% weathered limestone fragments
315	0.30m+	Natural limestone bedrock, this is in a quite weathered/ fractured condition in the W part of the trench

Trench 303. Ground level: 72.21m OD (E); 72.23m OD (W); 10m long, 1.5m wide; maximum depth 0.45m		
316	0-0.15m	Topsoil, dark greyish brown silty loam, very occasional small limestone fragments
317	0.15-0.41m	Subsoil, brown fine silt, up to 60% weathered limestone fragments
318	0.41-0.43m	Brownish yellow silty clay, thin band of material overlying natural bedrock
319	0.43m+	Natural limestone bedrock, outcrops in middle of trench

APPENDIX 2 : CONTEXT FINDS RECORD SUMMARY

The quantification of materials is generally represented as the number of pieces found and their weight in grammes. However, only the number of pieces is given for the iron and worked stone objects while the weight only is given for the cremated human bone. (Tr = trench)

Tr	Context	Animal bone	Human bone	C.B.M.	Fired clay	EIA pot	R-B pot	Stone	Iron	Others and Comments
101	103	1/6g		7/216g	5/31g		16/360g			
	104		678g				174/1417g	1		Stone SF no. 412 - roof-tile frag.
	105		1067g				17/678g			
	111	13/42g		1/78g			1/11g			
	113						2/180g			
	114	6/32g			4/15g		48/1064g			Shell (1/53g). Sample only of Fired clay retained
	122	9/36g					1/4g			
102	150			1/8g	3/5g	4/14g	1/3g			
	152	17/27g		1/6g		18/79g	1/3g			Animal bone includes worked fragment SF 411
	153	2/4g								
	154	3/25g				7/19g	1/5g			
	155	2/5g			1/15g	34/142g				
	156					3/3g				
	157	8/93g			1/1g	44/316g	6/16g			
	158	1/1g			1/2g	1/1g	15/63g		2	Iron SF nos. 407 and 408
	160	1/15g		3/88g	1/11g	7/34g	19/172g		3	Iron SF nos. 400-402 Flint (1/2g)
	163				1/8g		1/3g			
	164							1		Stone SF no. 413 - part of drain
	167						8/74g			
	168						10/153g		1	Iron SF no. 409
	169						14/124g		1	Iron SF no. 410
	171	8/102g				1/1g	1/25g			
	172	1/4g					5/39g			
	173	12/21g					38/182g		1	Iron SF no. 403
	174	9/24g			2/4g		9/33g		3	Iron SF nos. 404-406
Total		93/437g	1745g	13/396g	19/92g	119/609g	390/4506g	2	11	