

28624

# Ham Hill Quarry, Hamdon Hill Montacute, Somerset

Archaeological Excavation 2002  
Post-Excavation Assessment Report

Wessex Archaeology



Ref: 51679

October 2003

28624

**HAM HILL QUARRY, HAMDON HILL,  
MONTACUTE, SOMERSET**

**Archaeological Excavation 2002**

**Post-excavation Assessment Report**

Prepared for:  
**Dr David Jefferson  
The Old Armoury  
Unit 13, Orb Way  
Crown Business Park  
Station Road  
Old Dalby  
Melton Mowbery  
Leicestershire  
LE14 3NQ**

On Behalf of  
**Ham Hill Quarry**

by:  
**Wessex Archaeology  
Portway House  
Old Sarum Park  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP4 6EB**

Report reference: 51679

**October 2003**

# HAM HILL QUARRY, HAMDON HILL, MONTACUTE, SOMERSET

## Archaeological Excavation 2002 Post-excavation Assessment Report

### Contents

1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
2	METHODS .....	3
3	RESULTS.....	4
4	THE FINDS .....	8
5	ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT .....	12
6	STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL.....	14
7	OBJECTIVES OF ANALYSIS.....	16
8	PROPOSED METHOD STATEMENT.....	17
9	PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION .....	19
10	TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME .....	20
11	STORAGE AND CURATION .....	21
12	REFERENCES .....	23

Figure 1	Location plan
Figure 2	GSB printout
Figure 3	GSB summary interpretation
Figure 4	Archaeological features
Figure 5	Selected sections

Appendix 1	All finds by context
Appendix 2	Charred plant remains and charcoal
Appendix 3	Details of features recorded
Appendix 4	Site archive

# **HAM HILL QUARRY, HAMDON HILL, MONTACUTE, SOMERSET**

## **Archaeological Excavation 2002 Post-excavation Assessment Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jefferson Consulting Ltd on behalf of Ham Hill Stone Quarry to carry out a programme of archaeological work at Ham Hill Quarry Somerset. The work was undertaken in advance of quarrying of Ham Stone. It was carried out on two separate occasions between 27<sup>th</sup> August and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2002. The Site was located immediately to the east of the existing Ham Hill Quarry and covered an area of approximately 0.23ha, centred on NGR 34820 11610. This report presents the results of the excavation and evaluation phases of work and includes proposals for a programme of post-excavation analyses leading to a full publication of the results.

Ham Hill, more properly known as Hamdon Hill, is a Scheduled Monument and one of the largest Iron Age hillforts in Britain. Quarrying activity, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, has resulted in the discovery of archaeological deposits and material dating from the Neolithic to the medieval period. Systematic excavation has taken place since the 1920s and results of some of the work has been published, much of it in summary form. The evidence indicates that the period of most intensive activity was the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, with the densest concentration of material discovered on the projecting north spur of the hillfort.

Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was granted in 1992, subject to implementation of a programme of archaeological work, to extend the existing quarry southwards. Wessex Archaeology carried out excavations in 1994, 1998 and 2000 in advance of quarrying. A programme of geophysical survey of the SMC area preceded the 2002 excavation programme.

The focus of the excavation was a wedge-shaped area (Trench 1) measuring approximately 0.23ha. A number of pits and gullies of Iron Age date were exposed and found to contain significant assemblages of pottery, quernstones, slingshot and palaeo-environmental remains. These deposits clearly reflected acts of deliberate and selective deposition and resemble material recovered from previous excavations at Ham Hill. Unusual elements of the environmental assemblage in particular are highly significant in their potential to explore Iron Age economies and agricultural practices.

Two additional trenches (4 and 5) were excavated under archaeological supervision in the southern sector of Trench 1 in order to ensure that no archaeological features were masked by overlying deep sand deposits. No further features were identified in these trenches. Trenches 2 and 3, to the south of Trench 1, were designed to explore features identified by geophysical survey. Several pits, a gully and a shallow terrace identified in Trench 3 were found to be contemporary with previously excavated areas of the Iron Age settlement.

# **HAM HILL QUARRY, HAMDON HILL, MONTACUTE, SOMERSET**

## **Archaeological Excavation 2002 Post-excavation Assessment Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The excavation was commissioned by Dr David Jefferson on behalf of Ham Hill Stone Quarry. The collaborative role of Mr Bob Croft, Somerset County Archaeological Officer is acknowledged. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the assistance and support provided by Katy Menday, Country Park Co-ordinator for South Somerset District Council, and her team.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch. The excavation was directed by Bob Davis assisted by Alan Wright, Andrew Baines, Justin Hadlow, Natalie Barrett, Steve Beach and Pete Fairclough. This report was compiled by Bob Davis and Lisa Brown with contributions from Lorraine Mephram (finds), Stephanie Knight (animal bones), Michael J Allen, Chris Stevens and Sarah Wyles (environmental analysis). The illustrations were prepared by Marie Leverett.

# HAM HILL QUARRY, HAMDON HILL, MONTACUTE SOMERSET

## Archaeological Excavation and Evaluation 2002

### Post-excavation Assessment Report

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Jefferson Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Ham Hill Stone Company to carry out a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of stone extraction at Ham Hill, Montacute, Somerset (also known as Hamdon Hill) centred on NGR 34840 11640. Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) had been granted for mineral extraction in a sector of the monument that includes the area of archaeological works.
- 1.1.2 Ham Hill is the site of one of the largest Iron Age hillforts in Britain, enclosing some 85 hectares. The hillfort, which is a Scheduled Monument (Somerset 100), covers a roughly rectangular area with a 'fan-tail' spur projecting from the north-west corner (Figure 1). A complex defence system comprising two major banks and ditches fronted by a counterscarp bank bounds the projecting spur. Elsewhere on the monument the defences are less complex. Evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman activity has also been recorded within the monument.
- 1.1.3 A large part of the interior of the projecting spur and the western part of the monument has been removed by quarrying of Ham Hill stone. Quarrying has taken place from at least the Roman period and the Ham Hill Stone Company continues to extract stone in the south-west sector of the hillfort.
- 1.1.4 Scheduled Monument Consent and planning permission were granted in 1992 to extend the existing quarry southwards, subject to the implementation of an appropriate programme of archaeological work. In 1994 and 1998 Wessex Archaeology carried out two excavations in advance of the quarry extension (McKinley 1999). In November 2000 Wessex Archaeology stripped an area of c. 120 square metres prior to the removal of a 'pinnacle' of land which had become unstable (Wessex Archaeology 2001).
- 1.1.5 The archaeological investigations described here were targeted on a wedge-shaped area (hereafter referred to as the Site) representing a southward extension of the existing quarry (Figure 1). Archaeological work was initially focused on the proposed quarrying area, Trench 1 (Figure 4). A subsequent evaluation immediately to the south of the main excavation area took the form of two narrow trenches (Trenches 2 and 3). The combined programme of work was undertaken between 27<sup>th</sup> August to the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

- 1.1.6 This report presents an assessment of the results of the excavation and evaluation and includes proposals for a programme of post-excavation analysis leading to publication.

## **1.2 Archaeological Background**

- 1.2.1 Quarrying activity at Ham Hill, particularly during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, has resulted in discoveries of archaeological material dating from the Neolithic to the medieval periods. The discoveries have been summarised by St. George Gray (1924-6), Seaby (1950) and, more recently, by Burrow (1981). Most of the recovered material is held in the Somerset County Museum, Taunton.

- 1.2.2 The earliest phase of systematic archaeological excavation at Ham Hill was undertaken by St. George Gray between 1923 and 1930, on and outside the defences of the projecting spur (Gray 1924; 1925; 1926). Some limited excavation was undertaken earlier by Walter (1907) in the eastern part of the hillfort and on the projecting spur. The results of these excavations remain unpublished, although Gray and Burrow provide summary accounts of some discoveries and selected artefacts. The later prehistoric pottery from these collections was the subject of a detailed study (Morris 1987). More recent archaeological work on the hillfort included a watching brief on the projecting spur in 1975 (Ellison and Pearson 1977).

- 1.2.3 Two previous programmes of excavation have been carried out within the south-west sector of the hillfort interior. In 1983 the Central Excavation Unit excavated in advance of quarrying (Smith 1990) and an assessment, involving the machine excavation of three trenches, was undertaken in 1991 (Adkins and Adkins 1991). The results of the assessment excavations were complemented by a programme of geophysical survey commissioned by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. The survey included areas subsequently excavated in 1994 and 1998 and more extensive areas in the east of the hillfort (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1992).

- 1.2.4 The combined excavation results and finds evidence from Ham Hill indicates activity and occupation of the hilltop from the Neolithic period onwards. The period of most intensive activity was the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, with the densest concentration of archaeological features and finds on the projecting north spur. Sporadic early Roman occupation has been suggested, including a possible fort (Manning 1976) and, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, a Roman villa was constructed in the eastern part of the hillfort. The excavation evidence in the south-western interior indicates scattered Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity and a relatively low level of Iron Age occupation in this area.

## **1.3 The Site**

- 1.3.1 The Site is located immediately to the east of the current face of Ham Hill quarry in the south-west sector of the hillfort interior and is centred on NGR 34820 11610. The Site area was triangular/wedge-shaped in plan and covered an area of approximately 0.23ha., bounded to the east and south by a large soil bund and to the west by a north-south aligned ruined dry stone wall. The Site is flat and lies generally at c.120m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The

underlying natural geology is Upper Liassic Ham Hill Stone and Yeovil Sands (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series Sheet 273).

#### **1.4 Geophysical Survey**

1.4.1 The Site was included in a recent geophysical survey carried out by GSB Prospection within the larger SMC area (Figures 2 and 3, Area 2) A large field to the east of the SMC area was also surveyed (Figure 2 and 3, Area 1). The survey results for Area 2 indicated that a square enclosure measuring 30m by 30m occupies the southern half of the area. The nature of the enclosure is unknown but it may have been a tile stone or building stone works. Several other features were also visible. A strong magnetic response running across the survey area (Figures 2 and 3, Area 2) proved to be a modern pipe.

#### **1.5 Aims of The Fieldwork Programme**

1.5.1 The principal aim of the fieldwork as set out in the Method Statement (Wessex Archaeology 2001) was to preserve by record the extent, nature, date and significance of all archaeological features and deposits present within the Site.

### **2 METHODS**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 Fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Method Statement prepared by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2001) and approved by English Heritage and the Somerset County Archaeologist in advance of the work.

#### **2.2 Excavation Trench 1 and additional Trenches 4 and 5**

2.2.1 The main excavation area, Trench 1 (Figure 4), was stripped of topsoil using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under continual archaeological supervision. Machine excavation was stopped at the level of underlying geological deposits or the top of archaeological features, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.2 Two additional trenches (Trenches 4 and 5) were machine excavated within the perimeter of Trench 1 using a JCB rear arm fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Trench 4 measured 2m by 28m and Trench 5 measured 2m by 25m. The trenches were intended to test the depth of sand deposits encountered over the centre and south of Trench 1. It was observed that between the topsoil and natural sand and rock an eroded sand layer (a 'hillwash') had accumulated, causing some features to be masked. Although no archaeological features were found in Trenches 4 and 5, this hillwash was found to overlie features in the central part of Trench 1 (see 2.4 below).

2.2.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's standard *pro forma* recording system. A general site plan of all



archaeological features was hand drawn at a scale of 1:50. Measured plans of individual features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and cross sections at 1:10. A detailed photographic record was compiled, consisting of black and white photographs, colour transparencies and digital photographs. All artefacts were retained and paleo-environmental samples were taken from sealed contexts for the recovery of charcoal and charred plant remains.

### **2.3 Evaluation Trenches 2 and 3**

2.3.1 An area of land to the south of Trench 1 was allocated for future storage of quarry stone and spoil by Ham Hill Stone Company (Figure 4). The geophysical survey had identified a square enclosure of unknown date along with a number of other features and concerns were raised over the potential for compression of archaeological remains. Following consultation with the Somerset County Archaeologist, it was decided to undertake an evaluation of the archaeological potential of the area, designed, in particular, to locate the enclosure.

2.3.2 Evaluation Trenches 2 and 3 were machine excavated using a JCB rear arm fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Trench 2 measured 12.5m in length by 2m and Trench 3 measured 30m in length by 2m. Both trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.20-0.30m.

### **2.4 Monitoring**

2.4.1 Following the identification of the 'hillwash' deposit in Trenches 4 and 5, a programme of archaeological monitoring of the machine stripping of these deposits of sand in the southern half of Trench 1 was undertaken. The excavated sand was used to build a 1m deep protective layer covering the evaluation area immediately to the south of trench 1. A tracked excavator fitted with a toothed bucket was used.

2.4.2 During this process a further 14 features, mostly pits, were identified and a programme of additional excavation was undertaken.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 Features and deposits dating to the Iron Age were investigated during the course of the excavation and evaluation. Significant groups of Iron Age material, some clearly special deposits, were present in a number of pits. A small quantity of Roman pottery and an early Saxon brooch were also recovered but no associated structural evidence was identified. Two sherds of possible Bronze Age date were present in an Iron Age feature.

3.1.2 Natural geological deposits were also observed and noted during machine stripping and archaeological work in the course of interpreting the origin and character of features and deposits encountered.

## **3.2 Natural Deposits and soil sequence**

- 3.2.1 The topsoil was characterised by a dark brown sandy loam with common small to medium sized fragments of Ham Stone. This deposit varied in thickness across the Site from 0.10m-0.15m in the north of the site, to 0.05m in the centre of the Site and 0.20m in the south. The topsoil in the north and centre parts of the Site had been buried and compressed by a haul road constructed from large pieces of Ham Stone.
- 3.2.2 The 'natural' geological deposits, typically Upper Liassic Ham Hill Stone and Yeovil Sands (British Geological Survey Sheet 273), were sealed below the topsoil. The deposits were characterised by thin limestones and sandy beds. In the north of the site the deposits were predominantly made up of broken thin beds of limestone crossed by numerous irregular and linear gullies aligned north-east/south-west. These features were interpreted as natural fissures in the Ham Hill Stone bedrock. To the south the deposits were characterised by a deep deposit of yellowish silty sand which overlay the thin beds of limestone to a depth of 2-3m. All recognised archaeological features cut these deposits.

## **3.3 Archaeological Sequence**

### *Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)*

#### **The Excavation**

- 3.3.1 Two ditches exposed during excavation in the northern part of Trench 1 may be field boundaries or, alternatively, may represent the north-east corner of a rectilinear enclosure (Figure 4). The part of Ditch 169 exposed in Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 6.8m long and 1.2m wide. The stretch of Ditch 170 exposed was aligned north-east to south-west and was 18.5m long and 1.4m wide. Both ditches had a similar profile with generally moderate concave sides and rounded bases. The fills were predominantly mid-orange brown silty sand and contained Iron Age pottery. A stoney deposit within the fill of 170 provided possible evidence for the existence of a bank along the north-west edge of the ditch. If ditches 169 and 170 represented an enclosure, the bank would have been an internal feature.
- 3.3.2 A curvilinear gully, 112, cut the east edge of ditch 170 (Figure 5). It was approximately 17m long with an average width of 0.60m and had a projected diameter of c. 12-14m. The fill was reddish brown sandy silt. The function of the gully was unclear but it may have been associated with a circular structure. This feature also produced a small quantity of Iron Age pottery.
- 3.3.3 A group of pits cutting the underlying natural in the vicinity of gully 112 produced significant assemblages of Iron Age material that provided clear evidence of deliberate and selective deposition.
- 3.3.4 Pit 108 was 1.65m in diameter and 1.31m in depth. Large assemblages of pottery, slingstones and burnt flint along with slag, quernstones, charred

plant remains and an iron tool were present within the fill. Pit 119 was 1.65m in diameter and 0.80m deep. It produced a large quantity of animal bone, a moderately sized pottery assemblage and an iron object. Pit 149 (Figure 5) was 1.87m in diameter and 1.26m deep. A large quantity of charred grain and Brassica seeds along with slingstones, slag, pottery and a quernstone were recovered from the fill. Deposits of this type were not present in pits 110 and 133, which were smaller, more irregular features.

- 3.3.5 Feature 138, to the east of this pit group, was a shallow, irregular depression filled with dark reddish-brown sandy silt and containing only a small quantity of animal bone and a single pottery sherd along with charred plant remains. Its north-west to south-east axis suggested it might have been formed as a result of plough damage.
- 3.3.6 Fourteen additional features, mostly pits, were identified during the course of monitored machine stripping in the southern half of Trench 1. Most were dated to the Iron Age on the basis of finds recovered. A small number of the pit assemblages shared features with the northern pit group, exhibiting evidence of selective, deliberate deposition. Others contained only small numbers of pottery sherds and animal bones and two, pit 173 and pit 194, produced no finds.
- 3.3.7 Pit 136 had been extensively disturbed by vehicular compression of the area under a recent haul road. The precise dimensions were not, therefore, recorded. The pit contained an exceptionally large quantity of animal bone, two quernstones, a moderate quantity of pottery and an iron tool, possibly a billhook. Pits 205 and 185 produced relatively large animal bone assemblages along with small to moderate groups of other materials.
- 3.3.8 The remaining pits may have also been subject to special deposition events but this was not obviously reflected in the surviving material assemblages. Small groups of pottery and bone fragments, unworked stone, abraded lumps of fired clay and carbonised plant remains would have been commonplace within the Iron Age settlement and could have been incorporated incidentally within pit fills.

### **The Evaluation**

- 3.3.9 No archaeological deposits were encountered in evaluation Trench 2. Trench 3 had been positioned to locate the northern corner of a possible square enclosure identified in the geophysical survey. No trace of a ditch was found in the relevant position and it was concluded that 'background noise' from a modern pipe might have affected the survey results (Figure 3). A group of Iron Age features was, however, recorded within the southern end of evaluation Trench 3 (Figure 4).
- 3.3.10 A narrow east to west aligned gully, 147, was 0.38m wide and crossed the evaluation trench in an east-west direction. It was filled with orange-brown sandy silt and contained a small number of Iron Age sherds. A wide shallow feature, 125, possibly a terrace, to the south of the gully appeared to cut into

the natural slope of area of land immediately to the south of Trench 1. The terrace was filled with a mottled pale/dark grey through to pale yellow sand.

- 3.3.11 A small pit, 155, contained a relatively large assemblage of Iron Age pottery along with burnt stone and fired clay fragments. Two larger, sub-rectangular pits, 165 and 167, contained distinctly different assemblages but both are likely to be of Iron Age date. Pit 165 produced a single pottery sherd in contrast to the 63 sherds deriving from pit 167. A hollowed area interpreted as terracing was also recorded at the south end of Trench 3.

*Saxon (410 – 1066)*

- 3.3.12 A single artefact of Saxon origin, a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> century brooch, was found in the upper fills of Iron Age ditch 169 during machine stripping of the northern sector of Trench 1.

*Undated*

- 3.3.13 Trenches 4 and 5, which were excavated to test the depth of sand deposits in the southern sector of Trench 1, produced no significant archaeological deposits. A single feature, 145, interpreted as a tree throw, was exposed in Trench 5. It produced no finds. No features, archaeological or otherwise, were found in Trench 4.

## 4 THE FINDS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Finds recovered during the course of the excavation and evaluation have augmented the previous assemblage of Iron Age material from Ham Hill (Morris 1987; Smith 1990; McKinley 1999). These include a small but significant Iron Age pottery assemblage, a group of quernstones and whetstones in a variety of stone types, an antler weaving comb, two iron implements and three nail fragments. A small number of earlier prehistoric flints were residual within Iron Age features. Also of interest is the recovery of an Anglo-Saxon brooch.

4.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context; this information is presented in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 With the exception of a handful of Romano-British sherds (Black Burnished ware, coarse greywares and oxidised wares), and two grog-tempered sherds which could be Early or Middle Bronze Age (context 131), the entire pottery assemblage is of Iron Age date. The assemblage has been quantified by broad ware group (*e.g.* quartz-tempered, flint-tempered), and the presence of vessel forms and other diagnostic features noted. A number of different ware groups are represented and fabric totals are given in Table 1.

Period	Ware group	No. sherds	Weight (g)
?BRONZE AGE	grog-tempered	2	5
IRON AGE	calcite-tempered	3	15
	flint-tempered	2	6
	limestone-tempered	170	423
	quartz-tempered	57	437
	rock-tempered	364	3746
	shelly	533	4709
ROMAN	Black Burnished ware	1	4
	greyware	8	21
	oxidised	2	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>9369</b>

4.2.2 The range of ware groups reflects the variable local geology – the flint-tempered and calcareous (shelly, limestone- and calcite-tempered) wares are likely to be relatively local products. The quartz-tempered and rock-tempered groups, however, probably represent more regional wares. The rock-tempered group includes the only certain examples of Glastonbury-type finewares – necked jars with tooled curvilinear or geometric decoration. One example (context 109) has a post-firing perforation below the rim. It is uncertain at this stage whether the Glastonbury wares include vessels from more than one of Peacock's groups (1969); Peacock's original distribution

map listed three groups from Ham Hill – Shell, Calcite and Sandstone (*ibid.*, Figure 1 and appendix 1). One coarse limestone-tempered sherd also carries Glastonbury-type lattice tooling (context 157), but otherwise there appears to be no overlap between the finewares (in rock-tempered wares) and the coarsewares (all other fabric groups). The latter are used for plain jar/bowl forms. One complete profile of a bead-rim bowl survives (context 103). Fabric types and vessel forms can all be paralleled within the known range of pottery from previous excavations at Ham Hill (Morris 1987; 1999).

- 4.2.3 Amongst the quartz-tempered group are identifiable examples of Durotrigian Black Burnished ware from the Poole Harbour area of Dorset, the Iron Age precursor to the BB1 industry of the Roman period. The predominant vessel form is the bead-rim bowl.

#### **4.3 Fired Clay**

- 4.3.1 The small quantity of fired clay consists entirely of abraded, undiagnostic fragments, although two carry possible wattle impressions.

#### **4.4 Worked/Utilised and Burnt Stone**

- 4.4.1 The worked stone assemblage includes significant groups of quernstones and possible slingstones, as well as some whetstones and miscellaneous pieces. The eight quernstones are all rotary types, mostly of beehive shape. They occur in several different stone types, including granite, quartz conglomerate and coarse ferruginous sandstone, deriving from a variety of sources.
- 4.4.2 A group of 598 smooth, rounded quartz pebbles are likely to represent slingshot. The stones have a restricted size range with a mean weight of approximately 40 gm. The largest group (528) was recovered from pit 108. Pebbles of this sort have previously been found at Ham Hill (Laidlaw 1999), and large collections are known from Danebury and Maiden Castle (Brown 1984; 1991).
- 4.4.3 Fragments of burnt, unworked local Ham stone were recovered in some quantity (51.7 kg) from several contexts. Associated finds suggest an Iron Age date for this material.

#### **4.5 Worked Flint/Chert**

- 4.5.1 The small lithic assemblage (66 pieces) comprises flakes/broken flakes, blades/broken blades, cores/core fragments, and tools (three scrapers, two other retouched pieces). Raw materials include both flint and chert from local sources. Condition varies from relatively fresh to slightly edge damaged; some pieces are patinated, and at least three pieces are burnt. This is a small group and the tools are not particularly chronologically distinctive, but the presence of a significant blade component (including blade cores) suggests an early prehistoric date (Late Mesolithic or Neolithic) for at least part of the assemblage. It is noticeable that several of the blades are patinated, particularly within context 107. The flint assemblage was a residual component within Iron Age features, mostly pits.

## **4.6 Worked Bone**

- 4.6.1 A complete antler comb was found in pit 108. It has a tapering shaft with an integral, rounded, perforated butt and eight teeth (total length 226 mm). The shaft is decorated with elaborate incised cross-hatching within triangular zones. These items are generally described as 'weaving combs', although their precise function within the weaving process is uncertain. Large groups of such combs have been found on other Iron Age sites such as Danebury, Glastonbury and Meare Lake Village (Sellwood 1984).

## **4.7 Metalwork**

- 4.7.1 Three copper alloy objects were found; an Anglo-Saxon brooch from the top fill of ditch 169 and a waste droplet and a post-medieval button from pit 177. The brooch, a gilt button brooch, was originally saucer-shaped and probably in the region of 15-17 mm in diameter. It is decorated with a stylised human face within a circle and is of 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> century AD date (Welch 1985). Brooches of this type have been found widely across southern England, with outliers in Frankish Gaul.
- 4.7.2 The iron objects include three nails or nail shank fragments from pits 119, 180 and 197, part of a sickle blade found in pit 108 and a smaller hook from feature 136. Both tool types are relatively common in Iron Age and Roman contexts, sickles being the main tools used for harvesting cereals, the smaller hook for reaping or pruning. Other examples are known from Ham Hill, and from Hod Hill and Danebury (Manning 1984, 50-7; Cunliffe 1984).

## **4.8 Animal Bone**

- 4.8.1 A total of 1665 animal bones were recovered from 42 contexts. The bone is in very good condition with the surfaces intact. This is in contrast to Hamilton-Dyer's (1999) observation on the bones from a previous excavation at Ham Hill. Hamilton-Dyer notes that preservation varies from feature to feature so the good preservation of this group is probably due to the depositional environment.
- 4.8.2 Bones of cattle, sheep or goat, horse and pig were recovered. Cattle are most numerous, followed by sheep or goat. Very few pig bones were seen, suggesting that this species is not a major component of the assemblage. No dog bones were noted during the scan of the assemblage but carnivore damage on some of the bones provides indirect evidence of their presence.
- 4.8.3 A large number of horse teeth were found suggesting that horse skulls were present. Horse skulls have been recovered from the site in previous excavations allowing for a comparison of age profiles. The horse skulls found during the work in 1999 were not deposited at the base of pits, as at many Iron Age sites, and again comparison between this assemblage and previous groups will be recommended.
- 4.8.4 A detailed examination of this group will contribute to a comparative investigation of apparent rubbish deposits and episodes of ritual deposition

within pits. Data on the age at death, butchery patterns and disposal of the carcass should be obtainable from this assemblage and the results can be compared to those from previous work at the site.

#### **4.9 Other Finds**

- 4.9.1 Five fragments of ceramic building material (medieval/post-medieval) were found, four deriving from the upper fill of Iron Age pit 167. The small quantity of iron-working slag recovered is insufficient to confirm on-site metalworking.



## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Assessment of bulk samples was undertaken to determine the presence, diversity and type of charred assemblages. A series of 47 bulk samples of between five and 40 litres (mostly 10 litres) was processed for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal. The samples were selected principally from Iron Age pits.

**Table 2: Summary of bulk samples**

Feature type	Sample No.	Volume (L)
Pits	38	548
Vessel	1	5
Ditches	5	76
Postholes	1	5
Spread	2	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>658</b>

### 5.2 Assessment Methods

5.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods, the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 - x30 stereobinocular microscope and presence of charred remains quantified to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains. Details are given in Appendix 2.

### 5.3 Assessment results: the data

#### *Charred plant remains*

5.3.1 A total of 38 samples were collected from 17 pits. Thirty-five samples contained charred grain fragments. In 23 samples the quantities were very large.

5.3.2 The grain was mainly hulled barley and hulled wheats. Both spelt and emmer wheat were identified from grains and glumes, but glumes of spelt were predominant. No barley rachis and only one free-threshing wheat rachis were seen. Some samples included occasional finds of bean, *Vicia faba* subsp. minor.

5.3.3 Of particular interest was the presence of thousands of seeds identified as *Brassica* sp. (or, less likely white mustard, *Sinapsis* sp.). The presence of these seeds in such high numbers suggests that they are likely to represent the cultivated variety (e.g. turnip, mustard, rapeseed, cabbage, etc.) The seeds were recovered from pits 108 and 149, the largest group from the base of 149 (Figure 5). The excellent condition of their preservation, combined with other archaeological evidence, suggests that in pit 149 at least they were burnt in situ, possibly as part of an oil extraction process. Pit 149 also contained large

weed seeds and thousands of grains of hulled wheat and barley. Almost no glume bases were present. The assemblages from pit 108 and hollow 138 appeared to derive from a similar activity.

5.3.4 Other samples also contained *Brassica* seeds, but it is unclear whether these are of the cultivated variety or residual contamination. Most of the remaining samples contained relatively little grain, chaff or weeds. Pit 185 and vessel 5002 (from pit 136) contained higher than average quantities. In the latter case, the assemblage is composed of charred cereal processing waste.

5.3.5 While the quantities of grain were much higher than weed seeds in pits 108 and 149, the samples from other features contained generally more glume bases and weed seeds. The weed species represented were mainly arable species commonly found on Iron Age sites, such as wild oats, brome-grass, dock, bindweed, *Persicaria*, goosefoot and vetches. Neither chaff nor grains were prolific in most of these samples, but stems and roots (basal culm nodes) of grasses, including onion couch grass, occurred frequently.

5.3.6 Small mammal bones were present in 17 samples and molluscs in three.

#### *Charcoal*

5.3.7 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in Appendix 2. Fragments larger than 5.6 mm were retrieved in large quantities from four of the pit samples. The charcoal was mainly large wood pieces.

## **6 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL**

### **6.1 General**

6.1.1 The excavations contribute to a clearer understanding of a monument which, by virtue of its classification as a Scheduled Monument, is deemed to be of national significance. Despite the limited scale of the 2002 archaeological investigation, the detailed evidence has the potential to enhance our knowledge of a number of aspects of settlement and agricultural activity at Ham Hill during the Iron Age. Detailed analysis of the pit assemblages, in particular, examined in the light of earlier discoveries, will add to a body of evidence which is currently fuelling debate amongst prehistorians regarding the relationships between routine and ritual settlement and agricultural activities and Iron Age belief systems in general.

### **6.2 Archaeological Deposits**

6.2.1 The excavation and evaluation exposed a range of features and deposits of Iron Age date, including ditches and pits. Similar features have been recorded in the course of previous archaeological investigations at Ham Hill.

6.2.2 The ditches may represent enclosure or boundary features which, when viewed in conjunction with similar features recorded during previous excavations, have the potential to improve our understanding of Iron Age land-use patterns at Ham Hill. The possible circular structure in Trench 1 provides evidence of domestic settlement within the south-western sector of the site.

6.2.3 Analysis of the pit types, their fills and associated artefacts and ecofacts will enhance the existing record relating to previous excavations at Ham Hill and other Iron Age hillfort sites. The combined data has the potential to further inform the debate regarding settlement and agricultural activity, human behaviour and belief systems current during the later prehistoric period.

### **6.3 The Artefact Evidence**

6.3.1 The primary interest of the artefact assemblage from Ham Hill lies in the pit groups that, in some cases, comprise a range of objects and materials within a single pit. These include pottery, animal bone, slingstones, stone and metal objects, some clearly deposited with intent and perhaps subject to specific selection processes. The material has the potential to provide evidence of date, settlement function and activity as well as insights into the more specific issues of curation, ritual and deposition, especially when analysed with reference to the ecofact assemblage.

6.3.2 An examination of certain classes of artefacts with reference to the paleo-environmental assemblage has the potential to explore the relationship between agrarian activities and processing activities and implements such as the querns and the sickle and billhook. These may be linked, by extension, to ritual activities relating to deposition.

## 6.4 Paleo-Environmental Remains

6.4.1 The significant environmental assemblage provides the potential to examine economic and ritual aspects of Iron Age life at Ham Hill. The remains may provide evidence for the function or re-use of pits and the role of settlement features and artefacts. It may also be possible to identify specialised activities conducted within the hillfort. A case for such specialisation has been made for the large continental hillforts/oppida but it has generally been disputed for British hillforts.

### *Charred plant remains*

6.4.2 The Brassica seed assemblage is unique in providing evidence for the existence of this species as a crop in Iron Age Britain and for processing and cultivation techniques. Smaller groups of *Brassica* seeds have been recorded from other sites, e.g. Maiden Castle (Palmer and Jones 1991) and Hengistbury Head (Nye and Jones 1987), but were absent at Danebury (Jones 1984). The pit 149 assemblage will play a key role in analysis in that the evidence suggests the processing of *Brassica* seeds for oil rather than ritual activity. The oil may have been used for lubrication, cooking, or lamp fuel. Specific identification would reveal whether the seeds were of types more commonly associated with oil seed, leaf vegetables such as cabbage and kale, leaf/root, or mustard/mustard oil. Oil or mustard crops are the most likely to have produced the large numbers of seeds brought into the settlement. On the basis of historic records, it is most likely that the samples are mustard (*B. nigra*), known to the Greeks and Romans (Zohari and Hopf 2000).

6.4.3 Previous analysis of pits at the hillfort (pit 73) has revealed the presence of whole ears of grain burnt *in situ* at the base of pits that also contained *Brassica* seeds and other unusual objects, suggesting ritualised structured deposition (Ede 1999). The presence of charred grain within the *Brassica* assemblages in pits 73 and 149 offers the potential to identify and understand the relationship between the two crops. Modern mustard, for example, is produced by mixing wheat and mustard flour. Alternatively, cereals may have been grown together with *Brassica* crops, hence the presence of whole ears in some pits. The potential exists to understand how the presence of grain fits into the wider picture of crop processing and deposition. Further analysis of the 2002 samples and comparison with other groups from Ham Hill will reveal whether the grain was de-husked or represented whole ears. Samples high in *Brassica* seeds can also be compared with those high in grain to see if there are any weed species that may be associated with the oil rather than the cereal crop. Such finds might reveal something of past land use and cultivation practices between different types of crops. It may also be possible to highlight a relationship between pit 149 other features on the Site. Smaller assemblages of *Brassica* and grain may have derived from the same charring event as the pit 149 assemblage or may represent a separate yet similar event.

6.4.4 The environmental assemblage will be studied with reference to other artefacts recovered. Oil seeds may have been crushed or ground using an adapted rotary quern. The quern assemblage can be examined for unusual features and lipid analysis could possibly be considered. The plant evidence

may enable us to detect changes in patterns of food consumption during the Iron Age in Britain. It may be possible to relate specialised activities to a broader scenario of life within the hillfort – the processing and storage of cereal crops and the methods employed in their cultivation and harvest.

#### *Charcoal*

- 6.4.5 The charcoal samples offer the potential to identify the fuel used in firing the *Brassica* in pit 149. The sparse cereal remains from the sample from ditch 115 (170) suggests that their presence was unrelated to cereal processing and may have been the result of the burning of a hedge or vegetation on the bank rather than cereal waste in a hearth. Identification of associated charcoal may clarify this. Charcoal from pits and spreads may represent construction timbers would more likely have derived from hearths. Wood from the latter represents the local woodland and offers the potential to define the nature and management of local woods.

## 7 OBJECTIVES OF ANALYSIS

- 7.1.1 The aims of the post-excavation analysis and report preparation stage of the project are as follows:

- To analyse the primary data at varying and appropriate levels of detail as set out in section 8 below
- To disseminate the results of the fieldwork and post-excavation analyses through the production of a publication report to be submitted to *The Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*
- To produce a fully ordered and indexed archive, including the finds, from the programme of archaeological works. The archive would be of a sufficient standard to be deposited with the Somerset County Museums Service

- 7.1.2 Within the publication report, description and discussion will attempt:

- To summarise the archaeological background of Ham Hill
- To assess the results of the 2002 fieldwork in the light of previous archaeological work at Ham Hill
- To identify the nature of the settlement in the light of both the structural and artefactual/ecofactual evidence
- To further refine the chronology and phasing of the features through detailed analyses of the ceramic assemblage and other relevant artefacts, supported (if possible) by a programme of radiocarbon assays
- To identify through paleo-environmental analysis the sequence and purpose of activities associated with specific deposits and features
- To examine and assess the range of activities taking place at the Site during the Iron Age, and to provide an interpretation of the economic, social and behavioural aspects of the Iron Age population.
- To consider the position of the site within the local, regional and national context.

## **8 PROPOSED METHOD STATEMENT**

### **8.1 Introduction**

8.1.1 The introductory sections of the report will review the background to the project, outlining the circumstances and reasons for the work and summarise the previous archaeological work in the area. A description and assessment of the methods employed at all stages of the archaeological investigations will be included.

### **8.2 Structural reports**

8.2.1 Relatively little vertical stratigraphy survived and there were few intercutting features. The stratigraphic analysis required is, therefore, minimal and where relationships were present, they will be described accordingly.

8.2.2 Archaeological deposits will be described and descriptions will be supported by plans and sections. Data will be presented by structure or feature type for the Iron Age phase. Features containing deliberately deposited assemblages of surviving artefacts and ecofacts will be published as closed groups

### **8.3 Artefactual analysis**

#### **8.4 Pottery**

8.4.1 It is recommended that full fabric and form analysis is undertaken for the Iron pottery assemblage. Details of surface treatment, decoration, manufacture and evidence of use will also be recorded. All recorded characteristics will be entered onto a database. The pottery will be described and parallels cited, including the published assemblage from previous excavations at Ham Hill (e.g. Morris 1987; 1999) and sites in the region, in order to establish the chronology and cultural affinities of the material.

#### **8.5 Fired Clay**

8.5.1 The fired clay assemblage is small, highly fragmentary and abraded. No further analysis is recommended although comments on the fragments with wattle impressions may be included in the structural report.

#### **8.6 Worked/Utilised and Burnt Stone**

8.6.1 A significant assemblage of quernstones was recovered. Identification of stone type will be undertaken with a view to determining source areas, date range and functional significance to the Site and the possibilities of exchange networks and long distance transportation of materials, as well as aspects of selective deposition.

8.6.2 The slingshot assemblage has been quantified and no further analysis is required. The presence of slingstones, however, will be highlighted in discussions of pit assemblages and special deposits and reference made to

slingshot assemblages from previous excavations at Ham Hill and other Iron Age hillfort sites. The burnt, unworked ham stone fragments also require no further analysis but their presence will also be noted in pit groups.

## **8.7 Worked and Burnt Flint/Chert**

8.7.1 The small lithic assemblage provides evidence for early prehistoric (Late Mesolithic or Neolithic) activity on the Site, including knapping activity utilising local raw materials. Most of the flint occurs as a residual component within Iron Age deposits and further analysis is, therefore, not recommended. Basic quantification will be accompanied by and a brief descriptive summary statement.

## **8.8 Worked Bone**

8.8.1 As part of the assessment phase the single item of worked bone, a decorated weaving comb, has been described and illustrated and parallels have been cited with similar items from Iron Age sites in southern Britain. The results of this analysis will form part of the published report.

## **8.9 Metalwork**

8.9.1 The metalwork will be X-radiographed and examined to select items for specialist cleaning and conservation. Following specialist treatment, the iron and copper alloy objects will be described and parallels sought to confirm identification and date range proposed. A brief text report will be prepared and selected items will be illustrated, including the iron tools and the Anglo-Saxon brooch.

## **8.10 Animal Bone**

8.10.1 More detailed analysis of the animal bone assemblage is proposed in order to inform an interpretation of disposal and deposition practices. Details relating to butchery patterns, age of death and disposal can be compared to data from previous work at the site.

## **8.11 Paleo-environmental analysis**

### *Charred plant remains*

8.11.1 Two main aims are proposed. The first is to establish the sequence and purpose of the activities of pit 149 by analysis of three samples and to compare the results with the evidence from pit 108. Precise quantification of the pit 149 samples are unlikely to be possible or fruitful but quantification of the weed assemblage as well as an approximate estimate of the ratio of grain to *Brassica* seeds may be useful. If substantial differences are found it may be desirable to repeat the exercise for the remaining samples, provided there is sufficient contextual information to tie this information in with the formation of the pit.

8.11.2 The second aim is to produce quantified information for the remainder of the samples. The data can then be compared to that from pits 108 and 149, to

each other and to other sites in the region. This should provide a reasonable indication of how crops were processed and stored.

- 8.11.3 Analysis of a relatively small number of samples (15) can achieve these aims as the assessment indicates a repetitive nature in some of the large assemblages.

*Charcoal*

- 8.11.4 Samples have been selected with the aim of examining the fuel associated with Brassica and the fuel from another pit. Further samples have been selected from a charcoal spread and material in a ditch in order to examine disposal events representing a range of activities.

**9 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION**

- 9.1.1 It is currently proposed to submit a final report for publication in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*. The proposed format of the report is outlined below. Precise details of word lengths and illustration titles have not been attempted since additional and unforeseen information may necessitate some revision to the content and layout of the final report.

<b>Section Heading</b>	<b>Pages (750 words/page)</b>	<b>Figures/ Plates</b>	<b>Tables</b>
<b>Summary</b>	0.25		
<b>Introduction</b>			
<i>Project background</i>	0.5	1	
<i>Archaeological background</i>	1.5	1	
<b>Site Description</b>			
Introduction	0.25		
Iron Age occupation	4	4	
<b>Finds Reports</b>			
Pottery	3	2	1
Stone	2	2	1
Metalwork	1	1	
Other finds	1	1	
<b>Environmental Evidence</b>			
Animal bone	2		1
Charred plants and charcoal	3	1	2
<b>Discussion</b>	2		
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	0.25		
<b>Bibliography</b>	2		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22.75</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>



## 10 TASK LIST, RESOURCES AND PROGRAMME

### 10.1 Task list

TASK	STAFF	DAYS
<i>Preliminary tasks</i>		
Extraction of charred plants and charcoal	ES (Sarah Wyles)	4
Preparation of files for specialists	ES (Sarah Wyles)	0.25
Commissioning of charcoal analysis	EM	0.15
X-ray, cleaning and conservation of metalwork		costs
<i>Introductory sections</i>		
General introductory text	SPO	1
Illustrations	Drawing Office	1
<i>Structural reports</i>		
Summary of previous archaeological work	SPO	0.5
Description of features and deposits	SPO	2
Illustrations	Drawing Office	2
<i>Findings reports</i>		
Pottery report	SPO	6
Animal Bone	PS (S Knight)	5
Metalwork	PS (S Knight)	1
Flint report	PO (P Harding)	1
Stone report (quern and slingsstones)	PS (S Knight)	2
Petrological analysis of stone	Ext Spec (D Williams)	1
Other (CBM/ clay, burnt stone, slag, bone comb)	PS (S Knight)	1
Illustrations	Drawing Office	5
Charred plant remains	SPO (C Stevens)	7
Charcoal	Ext Spec (R Gale)	
<i>Synthesis</i>		
General discussion	SPO	2
Environmental overview / summary	EM	1
<i>Miscellaneous tasks</i>		
Management and editing (finds)	L Mepham	1
Management and editing (environmental)	MJ Allen	1.5
Edit text	SPO	2
Preparation of photographic plates	E Wakefield	1
<i>Publication</i>		
Sub-editing report text	JP Gardiner	1
Liaison with PSANHS editor	JP Gardiner	0.5
Publication grant: 26 pages @ £45.00 per page	-	-
<i>Archive deposition</i>		
Archive preparation	N. Walmsley	1
Archive preparation (environmental)	S Wyles	0.25
Microfilm preparation	N Walmsley	0.25
Microfilming	@£35.00 roll/file	costs
Archive deposition	N Walmsley	0.25

## 10.2 Personnel

- 10.2.1 The following Wessex Archaeology staff and nominated specialists are currently proposed to undertake the post-excavation analysis, report production and archive deposition:

### *Nominated Wessex Archaeology Personnel*

Project Manager	Paul McCulloch BA, AIFA
Finds Manager	Lorraine Mepham BA
Environmental Manager	Michael Allen, BSc, PhD, MIFA, FLS
Deputy Finds Manager	Rachael Seager Smith, BA, MIFA
Reports Manager	Julie Gardiner, BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA
Senior Project Officer	Lisa Brown BA, M Litt, MIFA
Project Officer	Phil Harding MIFA
Environmental Technician	Sarah Wyles, BA, PIFA
Project Supervisor	Stephanie Knight, BA, MA, PhD,
Palaeobotanist	Chris Stevens

### *Nominated External Specialists*

Charcoal	Rowena Gale
----------	-------------

## 11 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 11.1 Museum

- 11.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with Somerset County Museums Service. The County Council has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### 11.2 Conservation

- 11.2.1 The metalwork will be X-radiographed and examined to select items for specialist cleaning. These are likely to include the Anglo-Saxon brooch and the iron tools.

### 11.3 Storage

- 11.3.1 The finds are currently stored in perforated polythene bags in cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

### 11.4 Discard Policy

- 11.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact categories which are not considered to warrant further analysis. The discarding of any artefacts will be carried out only with the complete agreement Somerset County Museum.

## **11.5 Archive Preparation and Deposition**

- 11.5.1 The artefacts and accompanying documentary records from the excavation have been compiled into a stable, fully cross referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991). The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code 51679. The content of the archive is listed in Appendix 1 of this document.
- 11.5.2 The site archive will be prepared to the standard following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995), Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (Walker 1990) and Appendix 3 of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the requirements of the Somerset County Museums Service. The Museums Service has agreed in principle to receive the project archive for long term storage.
- 11.5.3 Whilst all artefacts, excepting those covered by the Treasure Act 1996, remain the property of the landowner, it is desirable that they be deposited along with the rest of the archive in Somerset County Museum. Permission for this will be sought from the landowner.

## **11.6 Copyright**

- 11.6.1 The full copyright of the written and illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by the Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd. Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum will, however, be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, provided that such use shall be non-profit-making.

## **11.7 Security Copy**

- 11.7.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

- Adkins, L. and Adkins, R., 1991, 'Excavations at Ham Hill 1991', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 135, 89-100.
- Burrow, I., 1981, *Hillfort and Hill-top Settlement in Somerset in the First to Eighth Centuries A.D.* BAR British Series 91.
- Brown, L., 1984, 'Objects of stone' in Cunliffe, B., *Danebury, An Iron Age Hillfort. Vol. 2: The excavations 1969-1978: the finds*, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 52, 407-26
- Cunliffe, B., 1984, 'Objects of Iron', *Danebury, An Iron Age Hillfort. Vol. 2: The excavations 1969-1978: the finds*, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 52
- Ede, J., 'The charred seeds' in J.I. McKinley, 1999, 116-124.
- Ellison, A. and Pearson, T., 1977, 'Ham Hill 1975: A Watching Brief', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 121, 97-100.
- Geophysical Surveys of Bradford, 1992, *Report on Geophysical Survey at Ham Hill*, unpublished report 92/101, commissioned by RCHME.
- Gray, H. St. G., 1924, 'Excavations at Ham Hill, South Somerset, Part I', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 70, 104-16.
- Gray, H. St. G., 1925, 'Excavations at Ham Hill, South Somerset, Part II', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 71, 57-76.
- Gray, H. St. G., 1926, 'Excavations at Ham Hill, South Somerset, Part III', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 72, 55-68.
- Hamilton-Dyer, S., 1999, 'Animal bone' in J.I. McKinley, 'Excavations at Ham Hill, Montacute, Somerset 1994 and 1998', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 142, 77-137.
- Jones, M., 1984, 'The plant remains', in B. Cunliffe, *Danebury, an Iron Age Hillfort in Hampshire. Vol 2.: The excavations 1969-1978: the finds*, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 52, 483-95. CBA Research Report 52
- Laidlaw, M., 1999, 'The stone' in J.I. McKinley, 1999, 108-9.
- Manning, W.H., 1976, 'The Conquest of the West Country' in Branigan, K. and Fowler, P.J. (eds) 1976, *The Roman West Country: Classical Culture and Celtic Society*, 15-41.
- McKinley, J.I., 1999, 'Excavations at Ham Hill, Montacute, Somerset 1994 and 1998', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 142, 77-137.
- Morris, E.L. 1987, 'Later prehistoric pottery from Ham Hill', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 131, 27-47
- Morris, E.L., 1999, 'Prehistoric pottery' in McKinley 1999, 91-107.
- Nye, S. and Jones, M., 1987, 'The carbonised plant remains', in B. Cunliffe, *Hengistbury Head, Dorset*, Vol 1, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology, Monograph 13, 323-8.
- Palmer, C. and Jones, M., 1991, 'Plant resources', in N. Sharples, *Maiden Castle: excavation and field survey 1985-6*. HBMCE Archaeological Report 19, 129,39.
- Peacock, D.P.S., 1969, 'A contribution to the study of Glastonbury ware from south-western Britain', *Antiq. J.* 49, 41-61
- Seaby, W.A., 1950, 'The Iron Age Hill-fort on Ham Hill, Somerset', *Archaeological Journal* 107, 90-1.

- Sellwood, L., 1984, 'Objects of bone and antler' in Cunliffe, B., *Danebury, An Iron Age Hillfort. Vol. 2: The excavations 1969-1978: the finds*, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. 52, 371-95
- SMA 1995, *Towards an accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists.
- Smith, G., 1990, 'Excavations at Ham Hill, 1983', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 134, 27-45.
- Walker, K., 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, UKIC.
- Walter, R. H., 1907, 'Ham or Hamdon Hill: Discovery of a Roman Villa', *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 53, 179-82.
- Welch, M.G., 1985a, 'Button brooches, clasp buttons and face masks', *Medieval Archaeol.* 29, 142-5.
- Wessex Archaeology 2001, *Ham Hill Quarry, Hamdon Hill, Montacute, Somerset: Proposals for an archaeological excavation on a triangular area in the south of the quarry*, unpublished client report T5916.02.
- Zohary, D. and Hopf, M., 2000, *Domestication of Plants in the Old World: The Origin and Spread of Cultivated Plants in West Asia, Europe and the Nile Valley*. Third edition. Oxford University Press.

Appendix 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

CBM = ceramic building material; Cu = copper alloy; Fe = iron								
Context	Animal	Burnt	Fired	Worked	Pottery	Stone	Metal	Other
101	4/23			4/48	6/16	2/91		
103				3/20	15/189	1/38	1 Cu	
104				4/28	12/30	1/52		
106	2/9				13/58			
107	1/21		2/81	24/166	3/12	11/1901		1 CBM
109	195/675	22,968	1/7	5/36	317/3762	539/146,148	1 Fe	48g slag
114						1/982		
116	1/1	1022			37/72	2/90		
117					6/6			
118	2/18				20/81			
120	27/151			1/5	8/122	2/86		
121	2/9							
122					4/33			
123	90/158		1/6		30/241	1/58	3 Fe	
126	3/1		1/30	8/142	218/2626	1/37		125g slag
128	5/78							
130	15/106	2819	3/9					
131	33/73	5375			17/43	2/359		7g slag
132	27/73			1/2	8/14			
133					7/16			
134					14/75			
135	10/12				20/24			
137	597/5189			4/6	36/282	6/37,459	1 Fe	1g slag
139	37/13				1/1	10/300		
141	3/3				9/30			
148					6/14			
150	49/34				3/16	30/2914		1g slag
151	8/40		2/61		6/30	7/217		32g slag
152	4/2			1/1				
153	128/888	3756			2/16	9/45341		
154	3/12	15391		1/7	½	4/306		
156	1/1	6157	2/8	1/3	93/283			
157	56/178			1/1	36/138	12/6049		
158	22/9				14/219			
166					1/1			
168				2/7	63/366			4 CBM
171	3/7	289		7/58	15/88	20/902		
172		1	3/6	1/8	5/14	2/127		
176	3/12		29/395	1/6	11/43	1/163		
178	8/49		1/1		4/5	6/471	2 Cu	
181	60/555		1/2		3/11		1 Fe	
182	17/182							
184	26/55				1/1	4/511		
186	81/66				42/217	2/16,028		
187	44/29							
191			1/5		4/23	1/2600		
192	3/10				3/6			
197					9/9			
198	2/1			1/6				
200	8/20		1/2		20/87	1/59		
202						4/76		
204	2/3			1/1	1/4			

206	72/354				15/133	9/360		
207	4/4							
208	5/2							
209	2/1							
210	3/19				2/1	7/1604		
215						1/22,000		
216						1/37		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1665/9139</b>	<b>51,749</b>	<b>48/613</b>	<b>66/499</b>	<b>1142/9369</b>	<b>680/286,405</b>	<b>7 Fe; 3 Cu</b>	

**Appendix 2: Charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature	Cxt	Sample	size litres	Flot							Residue	analysis
				flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Weed seeds uncharred charred	Charcoal >5.6mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm		
Iron Age												
Pit												
	123	2	36	100 <sup>35</sup>	A**	-	c	A**	-	P/beans (A) Smb (B) Moll-t (C)	-	P
108	109	4	10	10 <sup>4</sup>	A	-	c	A*	C	Smb (C)	-	
108	157	15	27	70 <sup>24.5</sup>	A	-	b	A(h)*	A	P/beans (C) Smb (C)	-	PC
108	158	16	27	150 <sup>45</sup>	A**	-	c	A**	-	P/beans (B)	1	P
136	137	5	40	30 <sup>18</sup>	C	-	a	A	-	P/beans (C)	-	
149	150	11	32	100 <sup>65</sup>	A	-	b	C	C	-	-	
149	151	10	8	15 <sup>12</sup>	B	-	a	C	-	-	-	
149	152	12	36	50 <sup>20</sup>	A*	-	a	A	A	P/beans (C)	-	
149	153	25	10	40 <sup>10</sup>	B	-	c	A	B	Moll-t (C)	-	PC
149	153	26	10	40 <sup>12</sup>	A*	-	c	A*	C	-	-	
149	153	27	10	25 <sup>12.5</sup>	A*	C	c	A*	C	-	-	
149	153	28	10	30 <sup>9</sup>	C	-	c	A	C	-	-	
149	154	23	10	1250 <sup>25</sup>	A**	-	c	A**	-	P/beans (C)	-	
149	154	29	10	140 <sup>7</sup>	A**	-	c	A**	A	P/beans (C) Smb (C)	-	PC
149	154	30	10	250 <sup>12.5</sup>	A**	-	c	A**	-	P/beans (C) Smb (A)	-	
149	154	31	10	250 <sup>17.5</sup>	A**	C	c	A**	C	P/beans (C) Smb (B)	-	
149	154	32	10	220 <sup>11</sup>	A**	C	c	A**	A	P/beans (C) Smb (C)	-	
149	154	33	10	1000 <sup>20</sup>	A**	C	c	A**	-	P/beans (C) Smb (C)	-	P
155	156	22	13	50 <sup>40</sup>	C	-	a	-	C	-	-	
165	166	21	10	15 <sup>7.5</sup>	-	-	a	C	B	-	-	
167	168	24	36	100 <sup>75</sup>	-	-	a	C	C	-	-	
173	172	34	10	15 <sup>5</sup>	B	-	a	C	C	-	-	P
175	176	35	9	10 <sup>1</sup>	C	-	b	C	B	-	-	
177	178	36	10	5 <sup>0.5</sup>	B	-	a	C	C	Smb (C)	-	
180	181	37	27	30 <sup>9</sup>	A*	B	a	C	C	P/beans (B) Smb (C)	-	P
183	184	38	10	10 <sup>2</sup>	A	-	a	C(h)	B	Smb (C)	-	
185	186	39	10	10 <sup>3</sup>	A	C	a	C(h)	C	-	-	
185	187	40	20	40 <sup>2</sup>	A*	A	a	B(h)	B	P/beans (C) Smb (C) Min. matter	-	P
185	188	41	10	10 <sup>1</sup>	B	-	b	C(h)	B	-	-	
197	198	42	10	10 <sup>2</sup>	A	C	a	C(h)	B	Smb (C)	-	P
199	200	44	10	10 <sup>5</sup>	A	A	a	C(h)	C	-	-	
201	202	43	8	10 <sup>5</sup>	B	B	a	C	C	-	-	P
203	204	45	10	40 <sup>30</sup>	A	B	a	C	C	Moll-t (C)	-	P
205	206	46	7	10 <sup>3</sup>	A	A	a	C	B	Smb (B)	-	P
205	207	47	5	5 <sup>1</sup>	A	-	c	C	C	Smb (C)	-	
205	208	48	5	3 <sup>1.5</sup>	-	-	c	-	C	Smb (C)	-	
205	209	49	5	2 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	c	-	-	Smb (C)	-	
205	210	50	7	5 <sup>1.5</sup>	C	-	c	C(h)	C	-	-	
Vessel												



5002	135	3	5	10 <sup>25</sup>	A*	A	b	B	C	P/beans (C)	-	P
?Iron Age												
Curvilinear Ditch												
112	114	1	10	30 <sup>24</sup>	-	-	a	C	-	-	-	-
117	118	8	10	10 <sup>8</sup>	C	-	a	C	-	Smb (C)	-	-
Ditch												
115	116	7	10	10 <sup>3</sup>	C	-	a	C	-	Moll-t (C)	-	-
	126	9	36	200 <sup>80</sup>	A	-	a	B	A*	Smb (C)	-	PC
159	160	20	10	10 <sup>8</sup>	C	-	a	-	C	Moll-t (C)	-	-
Posthole												
163	164	19	5	20 <sup>15</sup>	C	-	b	C	C	-	-	-
Scoop/Spread/?Hearth												
138	139	6	36	50 <sup>25</sup>	A*	-	a	A	-	P/beans (C)	-	C
161	162	18	9	15 <sup>9</sup>	C	-	a	C(h)	C	-	-	-

KEY: A\*\* = exceptional, A\* = 30+ items, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, (h) = hazelnuts, smb = small mammal bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis, C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>flot is total, but flot in superscript = ml of rooty material. <sup>2</sup>Unburnt seed in lower case to distinguish from charred remains

### Appendix 3: Details of features recorded

CONTEXT No	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	GROUP NO	TRENCH NO
100	Layer	Stone quarry road		1
101	Layer	Topsoil Layer plus machining overburden same as 182		1
102	Ditch Cut	Linear in North of site	169	1
103	Layer	Fill of 102	169	1
104	Layer	Layer within hollow		1
105	Pit Cut	Same as 119		1
106	Layer	Same as 120		1
107	Layer	Natural sandy subsoil		1
108	Pit Cut	Circular		1
109	Layer	Fill of 108		1
110	Pit Cut	Small Circular		1
111	Layer	Fill of 110		1
112	Curvilinear	Consists of 113, 115 and 127	112	1
113	Cut	Gully Terminus	112	1
114	Layer	Fill of 113	112	1
115	Cut	Section Through Curvilinear	112	1
116	Layer	Fill of 115	112	1
117	Cut	Section Through Linear	170	1
118	Layer	Fill of 117	170	1
119	Pit Cut	Same as 105		1
120	Layer	Fill of 119		1
121	Layer	Fill of 119		1
122	Layer	Fill of 119		1
123	Layer	Fill of 119		1
124		VOID		
125	Cut	Slight Terrace		3
126	Layer	Fill of 125		3
127	Cut	Curvilinear	112	1
128	Layer	Fill of 127	112	1
129	Cut	Section Through Linear	170	1
130	Layer	Fill of 129	170	1
131	Layer	Fill of 129	170	1
132		VOID		
133	Pit Cut	Irregular in Plan		1
134	Layer	Fill of 133		1
135	Layer	Fill of ceramic vessel 5002 in pit 108		1
136	Cut	Arbitrary Box section		1
137	Layer	Fill of 136		1
138	Cut	Irregular Spread		1
139	Layer	Fill of 138		1
140	Cut	Section Through Linear	170	1
141	Layer	Fill of 140	170	1
142	Cut	Irregular natural Gully		1
143	Layer	Fill of 142		1
144		VOID		
145	Cut	Tree throw hole		5
146	Layer	Fill of 145		5
147	Cut	Small Gully		3
148	Layer	Fill of 147		3
149	Pit Cut	Circular		1

150	Layer	Fill of 149		1
151	Layer	Fill of 149		1
152	Layer	Fill of 149		1
153	Layer	Fill of 149		1
154	Layer	Fill of 149		1
155	Pit Cut	Circular		3
156	Layer	Fill of 155		3
157	Layer	Fill of 108		1
158	Layer	Fill of 108		1
159	Cut	Linear in North of Site	169	1
160	Layer	Fill of 159	169	1
161	Cut	Charcoal Spread		3
162	Layer	Fill of 161		3
163	Cut	Possible Post Hole		3
164	Layer	Fill of 163		3
165	Pit Cut	Sub Rectangular in Plan		3
166	Layer	Fill of 165		3
167	Pit Cut	Sub Rectangular in Plan		3
168	Layer	Fill of 167		3
169	Linear	Consists of 102 and 159	169	1
170	Linear	Consists of 117, 129 and 140	170	1
171	Layer	number allocation to unstratified finds		
172	Layer	Fill of 173		1
173	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
174	Layer	Fill of 173		1
175	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
176	Layer	Fill of 175		1
177	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
178	Layer	Fill of 177		1
179		VOID		
180	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
181	Layer	Fill of 180		1
182	Layer	overburden same as 101		1
183	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
184	Layer	Fill of 183		1
185	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
186	Layer	Fill of 185		1
187	Layer	Fill of 185		1
188	Layer	Fill of 185		1
189	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
190	Layer	Fill of 189		1
191	Layer	Fill of 189		1
192	Layer	Fill of 189		1
193	Layer	Fill of 189		1
194	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
195	Layer	Fill of 194		1
196	Layer	Fill of 194		1
197	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
198	Layer	Fill of 197		1
199	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
200	Layer	Fill of 199		1
201	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
202	Layer	Fill of 201		1
203	Hollow cut	Irregular in plan		1
204	Layer	Fill of 203		1
205	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
206	Layer	Fill of 205		1

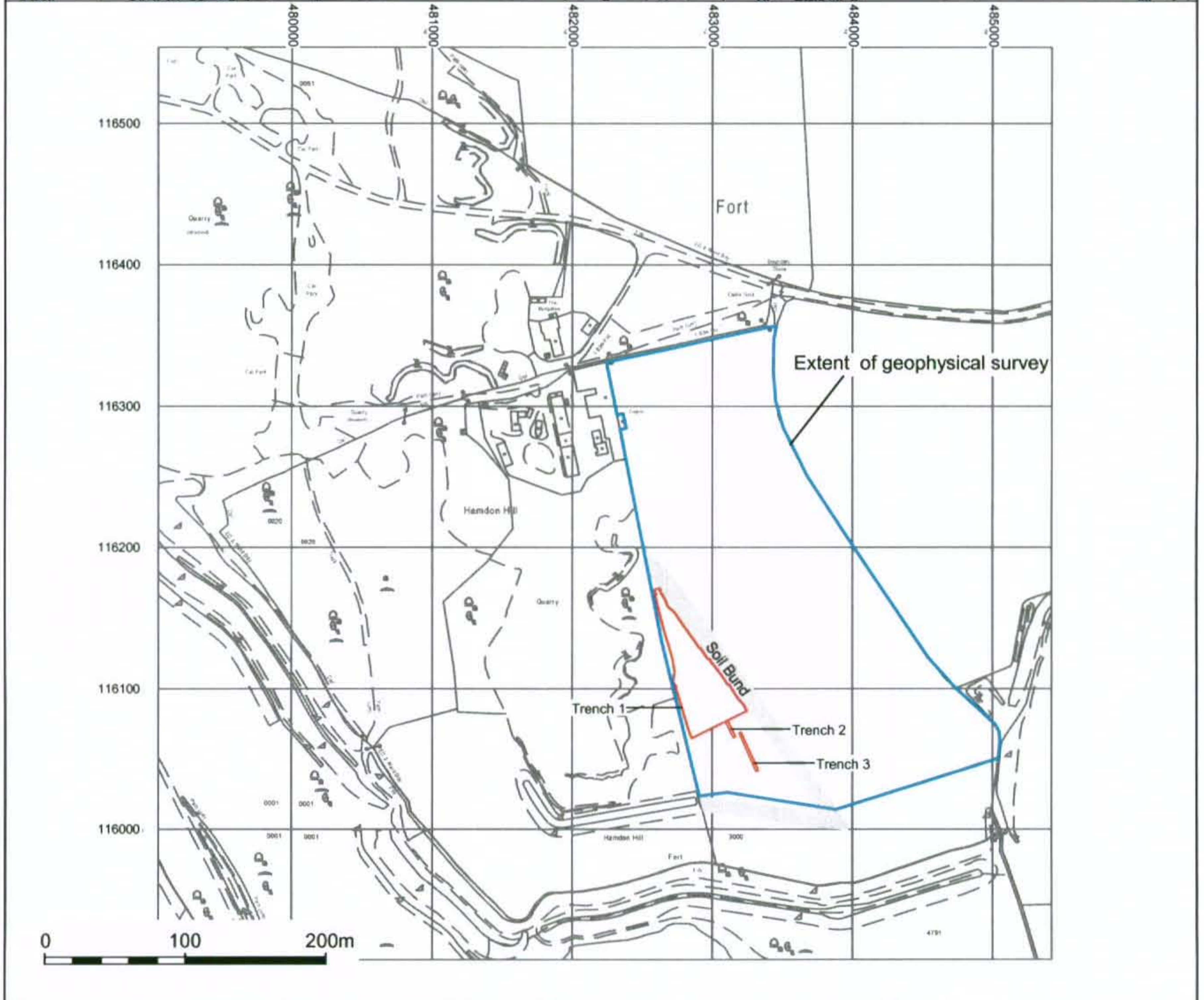
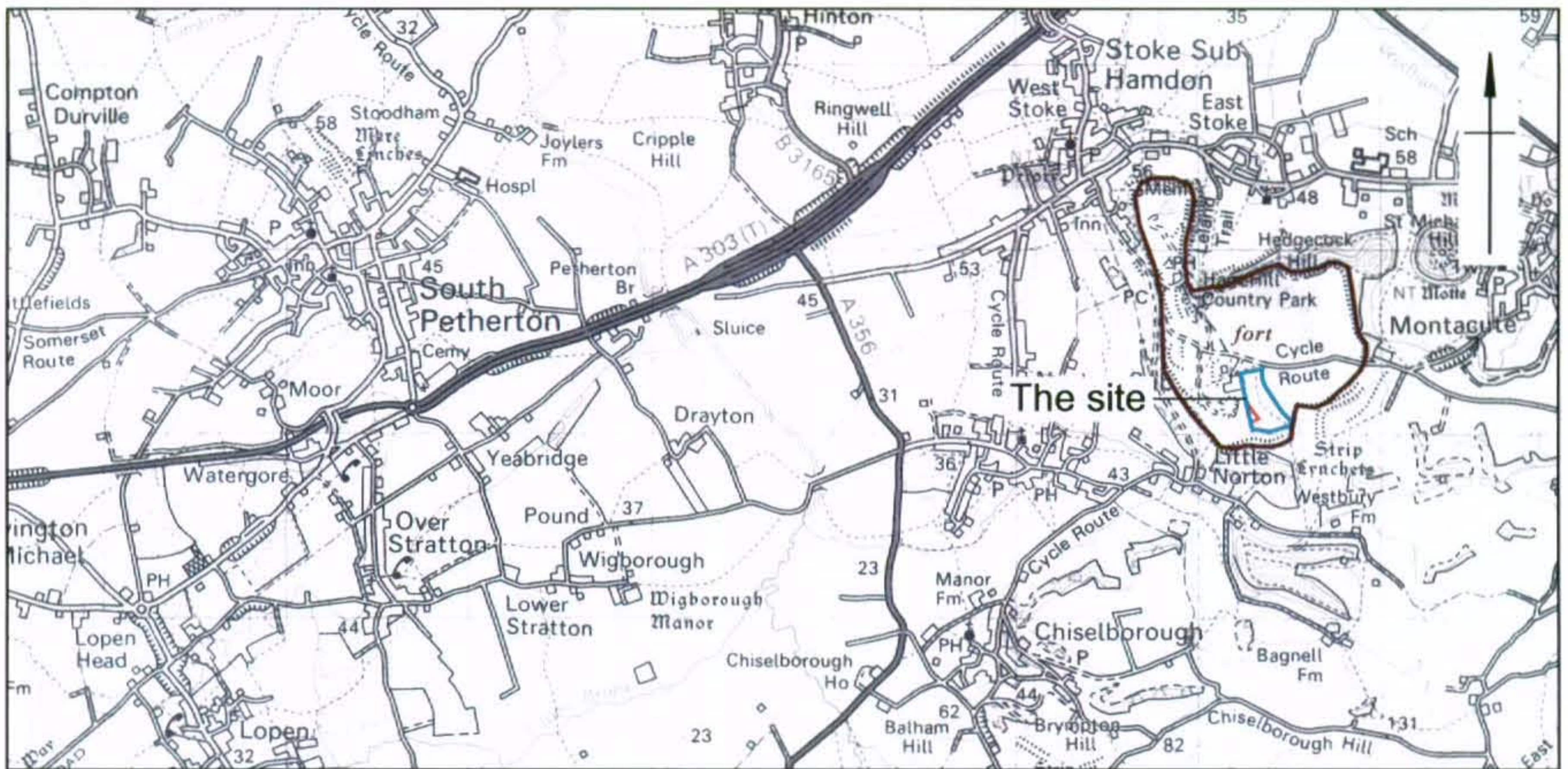
207	Layer	Fill of 205		1
208	Layer	Fill of 205		1
209	Layer	Fill of 205		1
210	Layer	Fill of 205		1
211	Pit cut	Circular in plan		1
212	Layer	Fill of 211		1
213	Layer	Fill of 211		1
214	Layer	Fill of 211		1
215	Layer	Fill of 211		1
216	Layer	Fill of 211		1
217	Layer	Fill of 211		1
218	Layer	Fill of 189		1

**Appendix 4: Site archive**

**Site Name: Ham Hill Quarry Somerset**

**Site Code: 51679**

File No.	NAR Cat.	Details	Format	No. Sheets
1	-	Index to Archive	A4	1
1	-	Project Specification	A4	1
	A	Client Report	A4	
1	B	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	19
	B	Number Record	A4	
	B	Trial trench records	A4	
1	B	Context Index	A4	5
1	B	Context Records	A4	117
1	B	Graphics Register	A4	3
	B	Levels (photocopy)	A4	
1	B	Survey Data Index	A4	11
	B	Survey Data Print-out	A4	
1	D	Photographic Register	A4	21
1	E	Environmental Sample Register	A4	3
	C	Object Register	A4	3
1	B	Site Graphics	A4	10
2	B	Site Graphics	A3	14
1	E	Environmental Sample Records	A4	49
	C	Object Records	A4	
	C	Context Finds Records	A4	
3	B	Site Graphics	A1	10
	-	B+W Negatives	35mm	-
	-	Colour slides	35mm	249
<b>FINDS</b>				



Reproduced from the 1993 Ordnance survey 1:50000 Taunton & Lyme Regis map with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown copyright, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire. SP4 6EB. Licence Number:AL 100006861.  
 Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2003. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449.  
 This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	01/09/03	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:5000 and 1:50000 at A4	Illustrator:	MCL
Path:	X:\projects\51679\...\Evaluation\03_04\Figures 1,2,4,5		




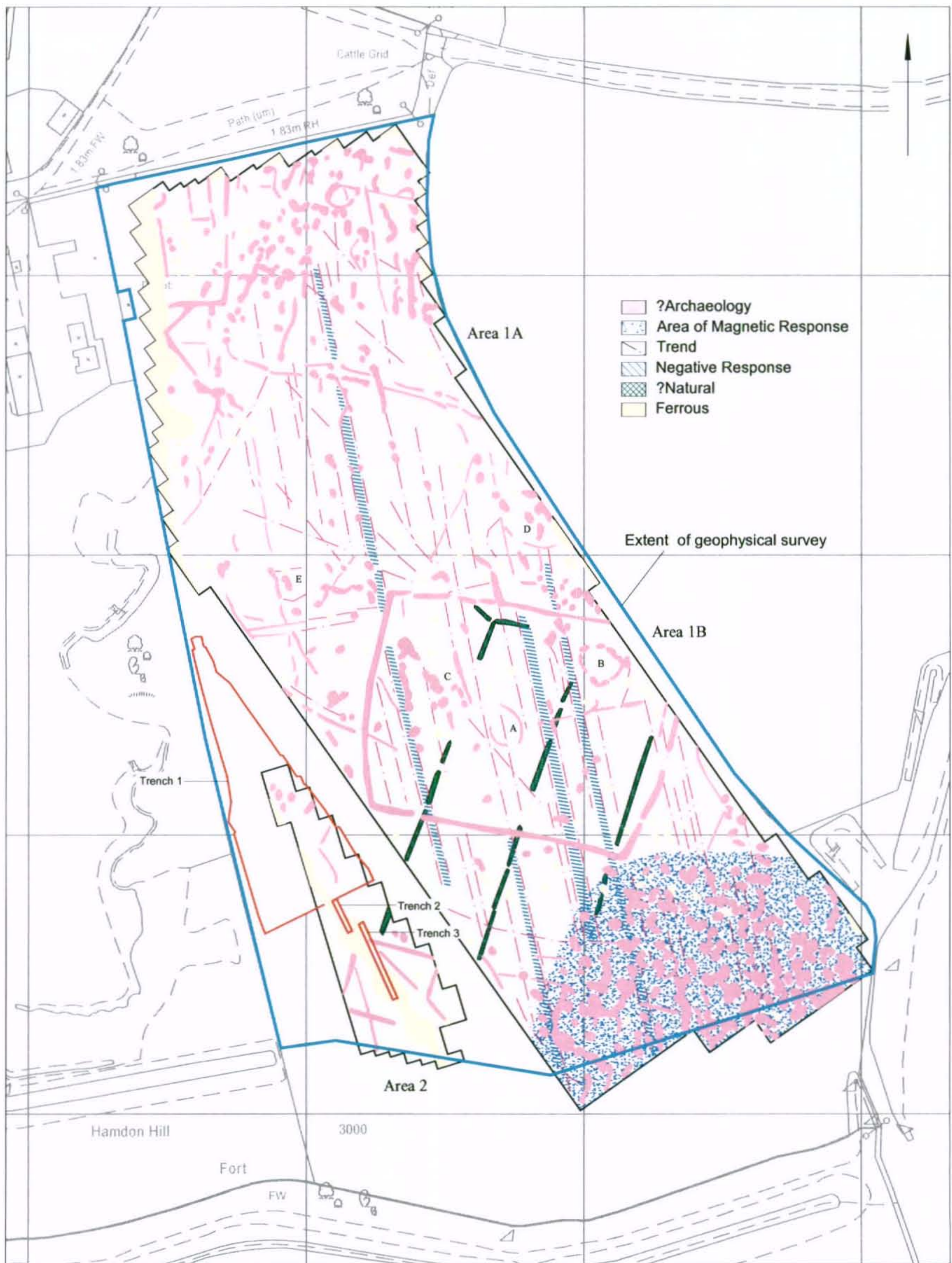
Location plan

Figure 1



Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2003. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

	Date:	01/09/03	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:2000 at A4	Illustrator:	MCL
	Path:	X:\projects\51679\...\Evaluation\03_04\Figures 1,2,4,5		



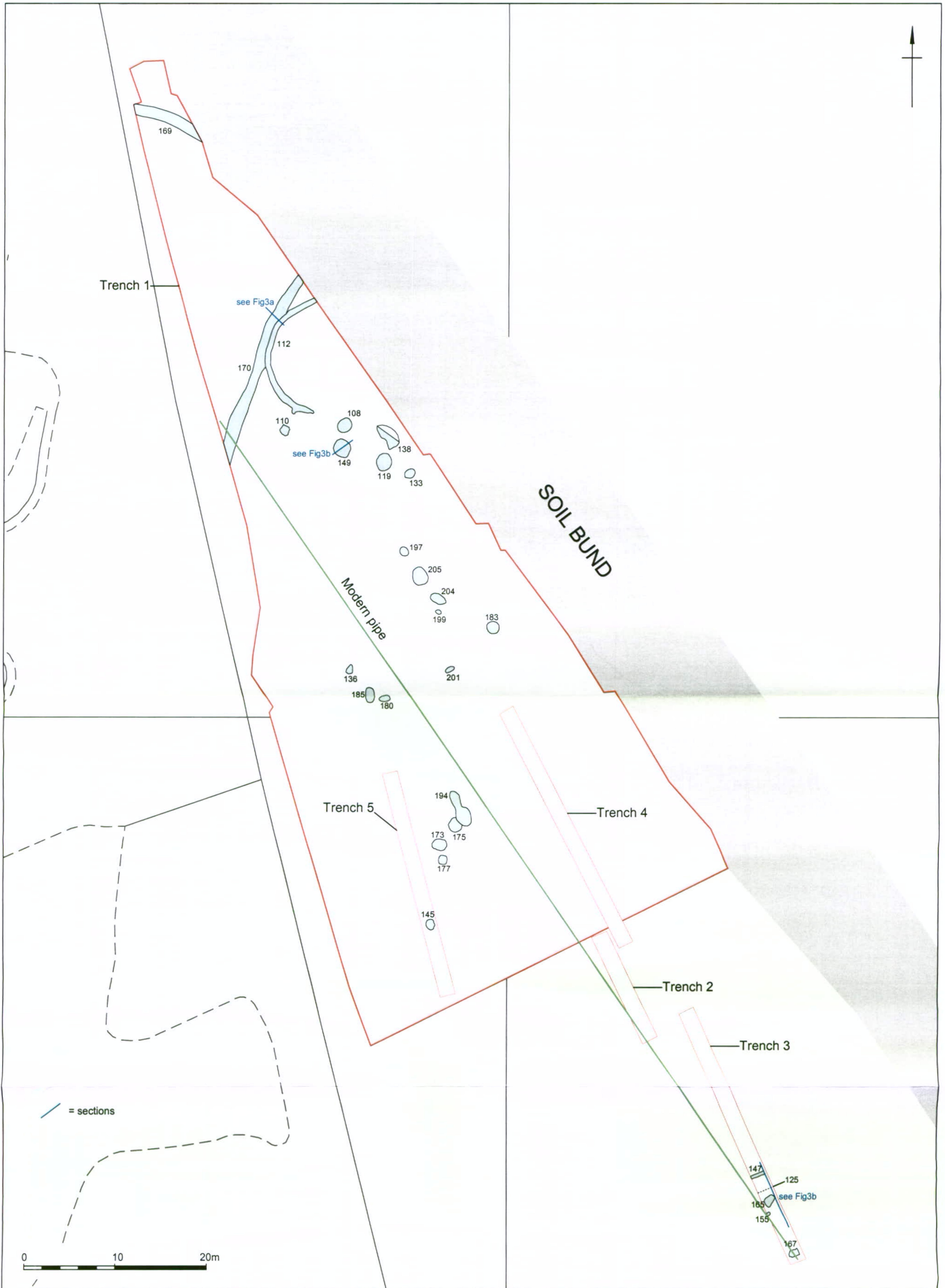
Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2003. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

	Date:	01/09/03	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	1:2000 at A4	Illustrator:	MCL
	Path:	X:\projects\51679\...\Evaluation\03_04\Figures 1,2,4,5		

GSB summary interpretation

Figure 3

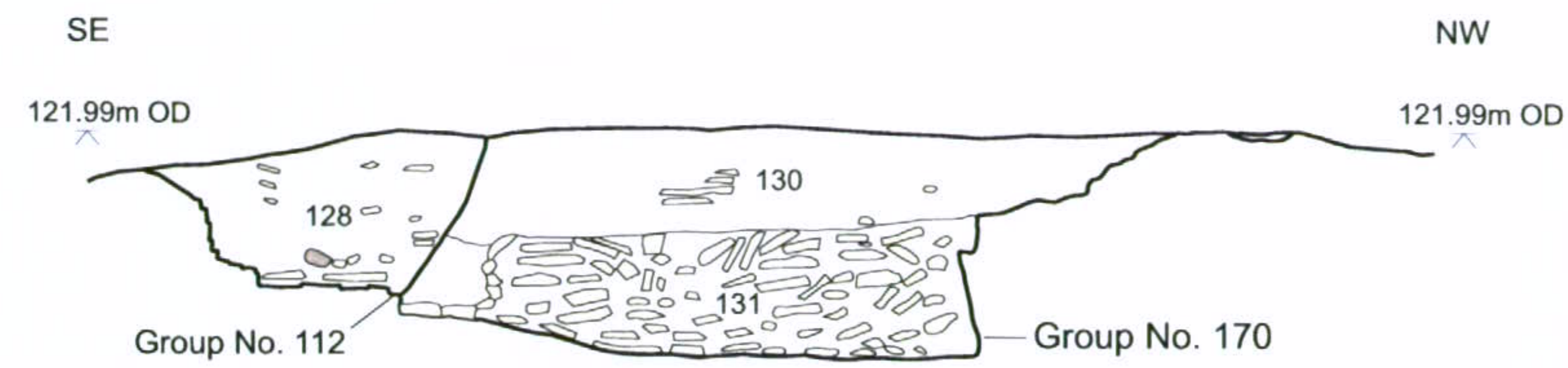




Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2003. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	01/09/03	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400 at A3	Illustrator:	MCL
Path:	X:\projects\51679\...Evaluation\03_04\Figures 1,2,4,5.dwg		

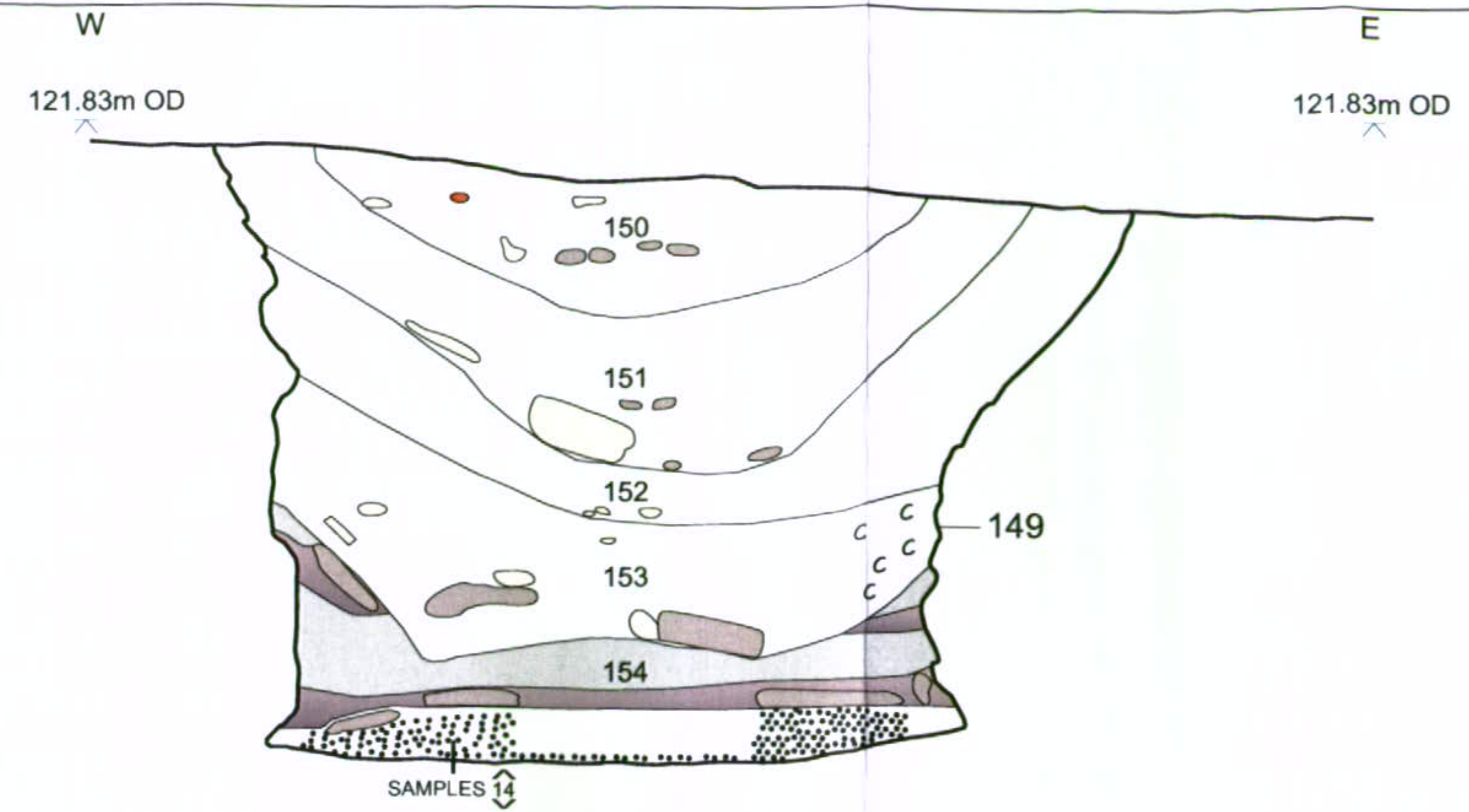




3a: North-east facing section of gully 112



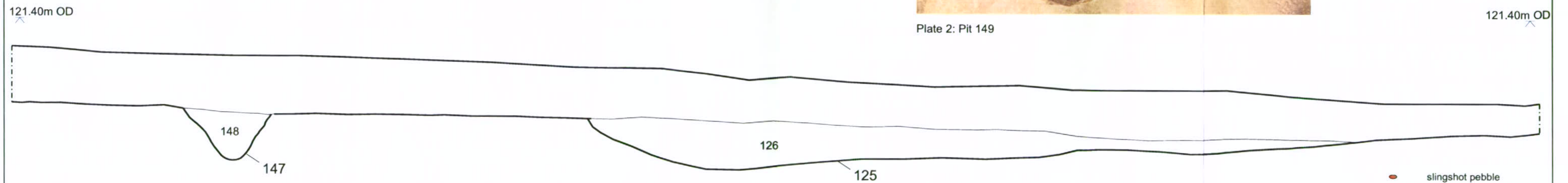
Plate 1: Gully 112



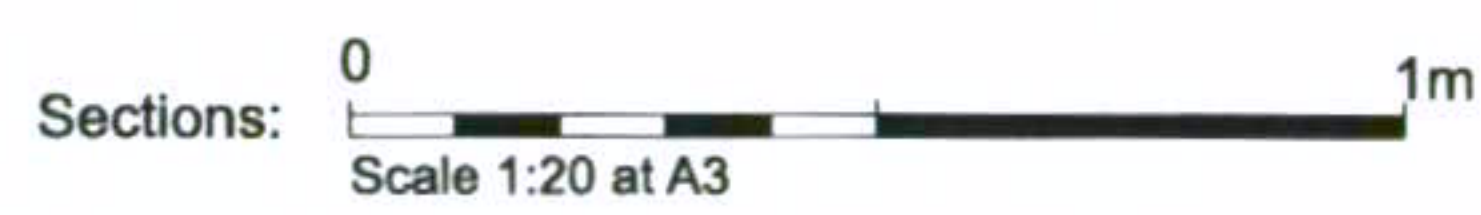
3b: South facing section of pit 149



Plate 2: Pit 149

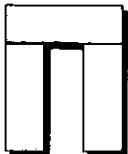


3c: West facing section of Trench 3



- slingshot pebble
- limestone
- burnt limestone
- charcoal layer
- burnt red layer
- burnt grain and seed
- clayey patches

Date:	28/04/04	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:20 at A3	Illustrator:	MCL
Path:	X:\projects\51679\drawing office\03_04\Figure 3.cdr		



**THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.**

Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB

Tel:(01722) 326867 Fax:(01722) 337562

E-mail:info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

Registered as an archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists

Registered Charity No. 287786. A company with limited liability registered in England No. 1712772

