

**Trial Excavation on Land at Coates Farm, Greinton, Somerset**  
**NGR ST41253630**

**Somerset Sites and Monuments Record 15679**

**for**  
**Flower and Hayes Developments Limited**

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	Wood		Sealed Cut		
	Artefact		Metres a.O.D.		Charcoal
	Clay		Mortar		Concentration of Animal Bone

## Summary

This report sets out the results of an archaeological trial excavation carried out during November 2002 at a site scheduled for development at Coates Farm, Greinton, Somerset (NGR ST41253630, **figures 1 and 2**). The project was commissioned and funded by Flower and Hayes Developments Limited and carried out on their behalf by Avon Archaeological Unit. The project was assigned Somerset Sites and Monuments Record Number 15679 (**SSMR 15679**) and the project archive ultimately will be deposited with Taunton Museum, Taunton.

Ten trial excavation trenches were opened at various locations (Trenches 1-10, **figure 3**) in order to assess the potential for survival of significant subterranean archaeological features, structures and deposits, prior to the commencement of development on the site.

The evaluation was undertaken on the site of a former farmyard that was largely covered in concrete surfacing and the demolished remnants of various agricultural buildings. The site had been reduced in level during the construction of the farmyard, most particularly in the west (Trenches 8, 9 and 10), where modern scalplings and rubble directly overlay the clay marl substrate. Trenches 3 and 4 in the south of the site produced evidence of post-medieval and modern structures relating to recent agricultural activity, as well as modern pit digging. Further modern pits were also located in adjacent Trenches 5 and 7.

The main focus of archaeological activity located was revealed in Trenches 1, 2 and 6 in the north of the site (**figure 4**), an area which had been less disturbed during the development of the former farmyard. Trenches 1 and 2 revealed a series of negative Romano-British features, including several gullies, some intercutting, and a large boundary ditch some 2 m wide and c. 1 m deep. Trench 6 adjacent, had been disturbed to a greater extent during modern terracing, but also contained a number of Romano-British gullies and ditches, alongside a medieval boundary ditch of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries date located at the northern end of the trench. The ditch contained part of two articulated dog skeletons in the primary fill (615). The pottery retrieved from the Romano-British features dated the earliest identified occupation of the site to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.

The Romano-British activity identified on the site is not unexpected, as evidence of Roman settlement activity including a flexed inhumation burial (Somerset SMR PRN44864 and PRN44865) were recorded during archaeological investigations carried out in advance of the construction of a house located to the immediate north of the site. Medieval activity was also indicated and historical sources identify the presence of a Quaker burial ground on the site of the present village hall.

A moderate finds assemblage was recovered during the trial excavation work. This included an assemblage of Romano-British pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. A few medieval pottery sherds spanning the 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries in date were also recovered indicating medieval activity in the vicinity and post-medieval wares recovered from late feature fills probably related to the more recent use of the site as part of Coates farm. A small, but well-preserved assemblage of animal bone, much of it identifiable to species, was recovered from both Romano-British and medieval feature fills in the north of the site. Specialist assessments were commissioned to assess the significance of the excavated pottery and animal bone.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to Mr R B Thorner, Director, and Jason Maggs, Site Manager, at Flower and Hayes Developments Limited for their assistance during setting up of the project. Thanks are also due to Jane Timby for her assessment of the Romano-British pottery and to Dr. Naomi Sykes for examining the animal bone.

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Avon Archaeological Unit  
Avondale Business Centre, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AW  
Telephone and Facsimile: 0117 9608487  
e-mail [avonarch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:avonarch@yahoo.co.uk)

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### **Note**

Whereas Avon Archaeological Unit have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

## 1 Introduction

The site is located immediately adjacent and to the west of Coates Farm in Greinton, Somerset (NGR 41253630, **figures 1 and 2**).

The Archaeological Officer of Somerset County Council required that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken at Coates Farm and the results made available prior to the commencement of residential development on the site. Accordingly, the Avon Archaeological Unit was commissioned and funded by the developer, Flower and Hayes Developments Limited, to carry out the work.

The objective of the trial excavation exercise was to evaluate the potential for the survival of subterranean archaeological features, structures and deposits and to assess the character, quality and extent of such features and deposits if identified.

The work, Somerset Sites and Monuments Record 15679 (**SSMR 15679**), was undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990, PPG16) and an undated Project Specification (Membury *no date*) issued by Somerset County Council. The work undertaken was based on a Scheme of Work for Archaeological Evaluation designed by Avon Archaeological Unit (Young 2002) and approved by Steven Membury, Development Control Archaeologist at Somerset County Council.

The trial excavation was carried out over a period of three weeks, commencing on November 6th, 2002, under somewhat difficult weather conditions comprising periods of heavy rain and strong winds. Nonetheless, it is considered unlikely that significant archaeological remains were missed because of the adverse weather conditions.

The project archive, which includes all site records, drawings, photographs and finds will be temporarily stored at the premises of the Avon Archaeological Unit, Avondale Business Centre, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AW. The archive will ultimately be deposited at Taunton Museum, Taunton, Somerset.

## 2 Methodology

Ten evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-10, **figure 3**) were opened at various locations over the site during the trial excavation and were allocated a unique set of context numbers accordingly:

Trench 1	Contexts 100-199
Trench 2	Contexts 200-299
Trench 3	Contexts 300-399
and so forth, up to	
Trench 10	Contexts 1000-1099

The location of the trenches was related to the National Grid using the appropriate Ordnance Survey sheet for the area and the trenches were levelled to a temporary benchmark provided by the developer.

Recording was undertaken using manuscript notes and standard Avon Archaeological Unit paper records. Significant archaeological features, structures and deposits were photographed and scaled drawings made as appropriate. All artefacts retrieved were bagged and marked with the appropriate context number and removed for processing.

### 3 Geology, Topography and Landuse

The site is situated on The Poldens, the underlying geology of which consists of Triassic and Liassic strata comprising marls and stiff Rhaetic clays.

The study area was located on the site of a former farmyard and was partly occupied by several large spoil heaps of concrete rubble, probably derived from farm buildings that formerly stood on the site, and demolished prior to commencement of the project. Elsewhere, much of the ground surface was composed of concrete surfacing or the underlying gravel bedding where the surfacing had been removed.

Overall, the site declined from the north and ranged in height between c. 50.7 m and 48.8 m a.O.D.

### 4 Archaeological and Historical Background

The small village of Greinton is situated some 10 miles to the southwest of the historic town of Glastonbury in Somerset, on the south side of The Poldens, a ridge of hard clays interbedded with bands of limestone fringed to the south with Rhaetic clays, which rises above the Levels. Coates Farm is located at the southwestern edge of the village, a short distance to the south of the parish church. The church is dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels and probably dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century, although the present building likely replaced an earlier structure on the site, as the graveyard has been in use since the medieval period (Somerset SMR PRN10538) reflecting the medieval origins of the village.

Historical sources record a Quaker burial ground in use until 1829 located in the area of the present village hall (Somerset SMR PRN10541) and presently marked by a modern stone erected in an adjacent garden. The site was given to the Quakers in 1696 and held by them until 1870, although a village school replaced the Meeting House in 1853.

Reference to the 1890 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey plan of the area (**figure 9**) revealed that Coates Farm was in existence by that date and that a series of farm buildings stood in the western half of the site. To the east, the land was given over to an extensive orchard and small paddock.

Recent archaeological investigations in the village have identified evidence of Romano-British and medieval occupation. A series of beamslots dating to both periods were recorded during trial excavation undertaken prior to the construction of a house at the rear of Coates Barn (Somerset SMR PRN44864) and further features were identified during subsequent monitoring of the groundworks for the house (Somerset SMR PRN44865). These included a Romano-British boundary ditch and adult male flexed inhumation of similar date, as well as medieval features dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

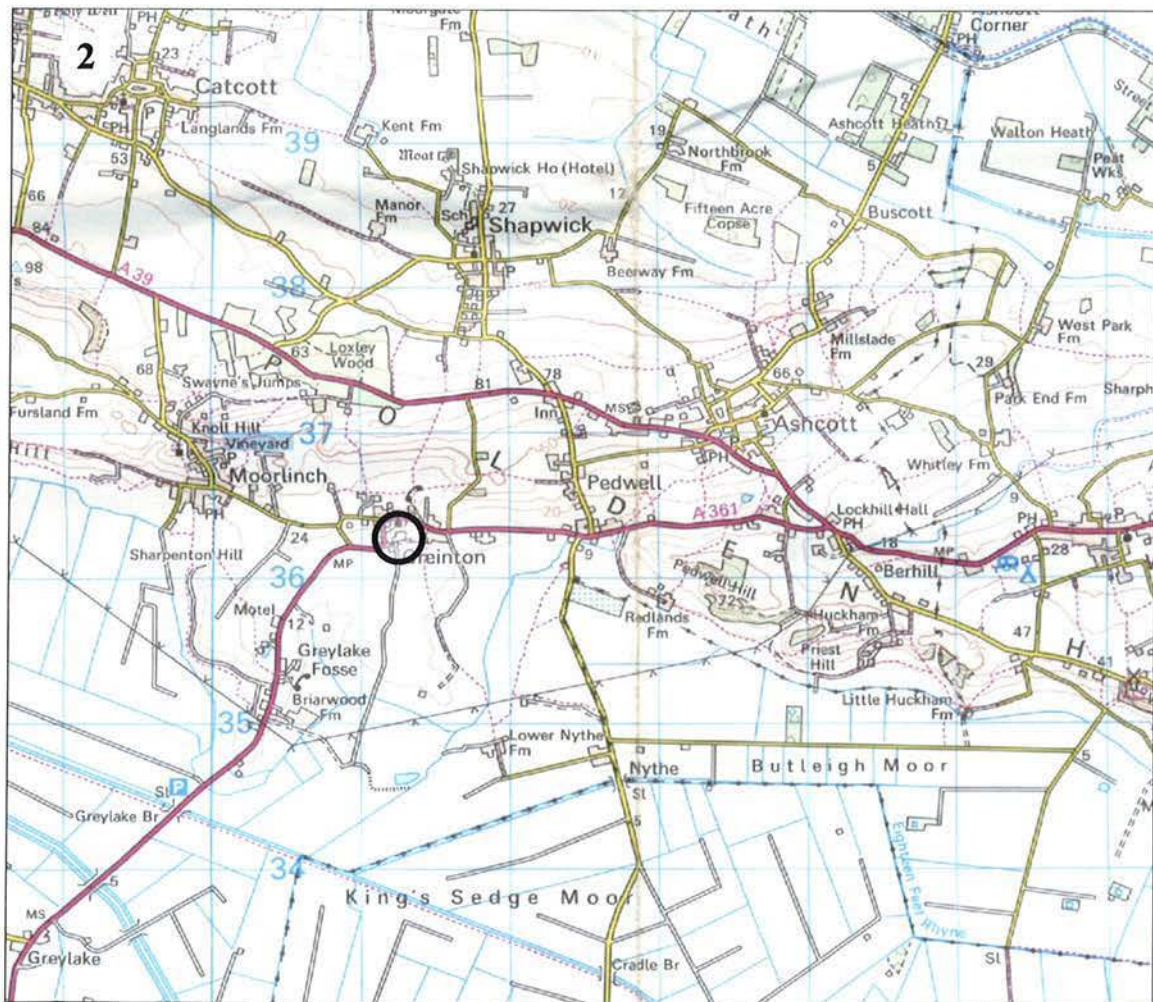
Figure 1

Site Location 

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ST 41



ST 36

Scale: 1:50,000

Figure 3

Location of the Trenches

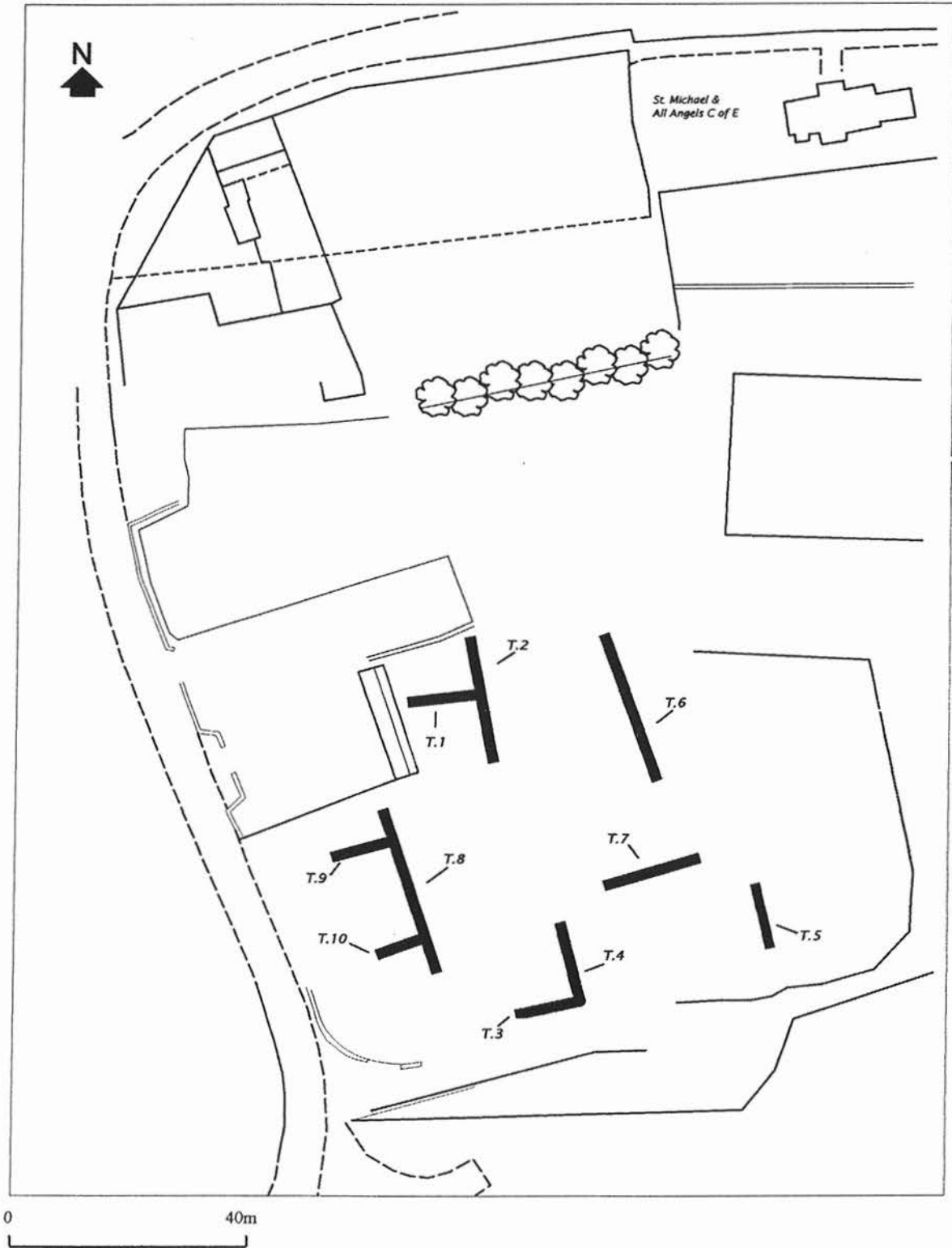




Figure 2

Site Location



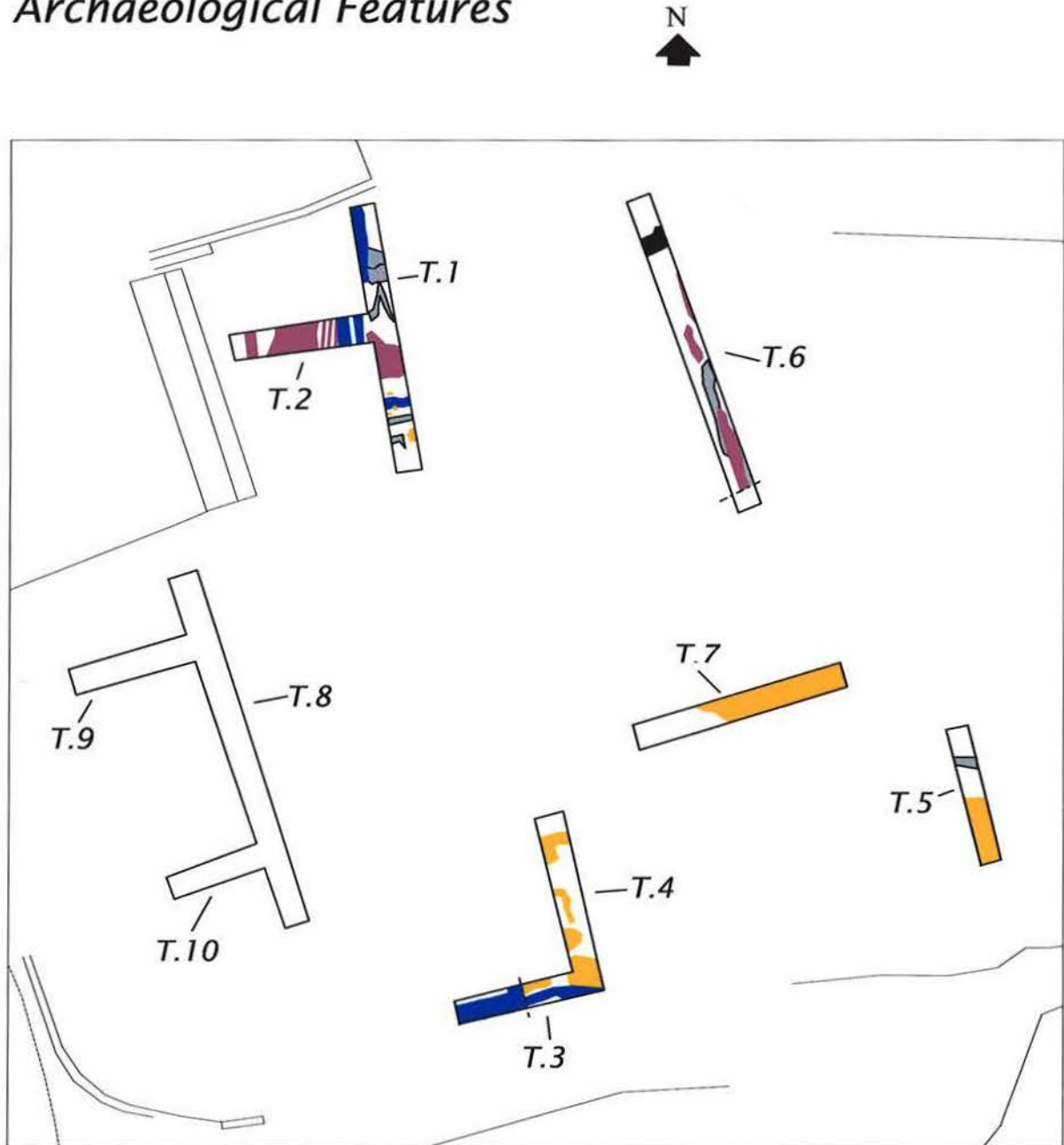
ST 41









Scale: 1:5000

Figure 4

Schematic Plan showing the Distribution of Archaeological Features



- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Romano-British Features |  Medieval Features |
|  Post-Medieval Features  |  Undated Features  |
|  Modern Features         |  Section Line      |

0 40m

## 5 Detailed Observations

Ten trenches (Trenches 1-10) were opened at varying locations over the site and are described below.

### 5.1 Trench 1

#### Figures 3, 4, 5 and 8.1: Photographs 1 and 2

The trench was orientated northeast-southwest and located in the north of the site. It was 12 m in length, 1.96 m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of c. 550 mm below the modern ground surface.

#### General Stratigraphy

The general stratigraphy of the trench comprised 130 mm of gravel (Layer 101), which formed the modern ground surface over the trench and sealed Made Ground 103, a wedge-shaped deposit of aggregate, thickest at 170 mm to the northeast where it overlay a thin and discontinuous remnant subsoil horizon (Layer 102). The natural substrate (Layer 105) comprised random areas of greenish grey and reddish brown clay marls revealed throughout the trench at the base.

#### Archaeological Features and Deposits

The truncated base of Roman-British Gully 104 cut the natural substrate (Layer 105) on a northwest-southeast alignment in the southwest of the trench and was filled with Deposit 106, dark grey clayey silt sparsely flecked with charcoal and incorporating some medium limestone rubble alongside more numerous smaller pebbles. The northern side of an indeterminate cut feature (115) of unknown date was revealed alongside the gully in the extreme southwestern corner of the trench.

One side of an extensive soil deposit (Contexts 107, 114 and 116), which continued over the remainder of the trench, was revealed adjacent and to the northeast of Gully 104. The deposit, which possibly filled a substantial unexcavated cut feature, comprised brown clayey silt with random inclusions of small to medium limestone rubble and small nodules of redeposited natural clays. Surface finds retrieved included animal bone and sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The deposit was cut by a series of ditches and gullies located in the northeastern half of the trench.

The earliest of the gullies recorded had been severely truncated during subsequent recutting and was represented by only a thin remnant of fill surviving in-situ (Deposit 113). The fill (113) had been truncated to the west during the cutting of Gully 117 and to the east by a second gully (Cut 119). Gully 117 comprised a northwest-southeast orientated cut with a moderately steep sided rectangular profile some 300 mm deep. It was filled with dark grey clayey silt (Deposit 108) from which several sherds of 3<sup>rd</sup> century Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bone were retrieved. U-shaped Gully 119 was similarly orientated and one non-diagnostic Romano-British pottery sherd was recovered from the black silty clay fill (Deposit 111).

A second feature (Gully 120) was also partly destroyed during the cutting of Gully 119. The western side of Gully 120 was truncated leaving only the eastern side and broad rounded base, somewhat wider at c. 800 mm than the other gullies recorded. Romano-British pottery sherds, fragments of animal bone and several medium limestone rubble fragments were

incorporated in Fill 112, charcoal-flecked dark brown silty clay. The eastern side of the gully (120) was subsequently destroyed during the cutting of an adjacent post-medieval ditch (Cut 118).

The two remaining features (Ditch 118 and Gully 110) exposed within Trench 1 dated to the post-medieval period and both probably extended northwards into the adjoining trench (Trench 2, Cut 224, below). The partly excavated dark grey clayey fill (Deposit 109) of Ditch 118 yielded one sherd of late post-medieval pottery, and several sherds (c. 19<sup>th</sup> century) were retrieved as surface finds from the black humic fill of adjacent Gully 110.

### Discussion

Archaeological activity dating to the Romano-British period was indicated by a series of intercutting gullies, as well as other possible cut features of similar date recorded in Trench 1. Two adjacent features located at the extreme northeastern end of the trench also indicated activity in the area during the later post-medieval (Victorian) period.

## 5.2 Trench 2

**Figures 3, 4, 5 and 8.2: Photographs cover-left, 3, 4, 11, 12 and 14**

Trench 2 lay perpendicular to Trench 1 and adjoined the latter at the northeast end. It was 2.03 m in width and extended for a distance of 21.1 m. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.25 m below the modern ground surface.

### General Stratigraphy

The modern ground surface over the trench comprised 170 mm of concrete (Layer 201) bedded on Gravel 202, which in turn overlay Aggregate 203, deposited in order to level the area prior to the laying of the concrete surfacing. A discontinuous buried subsoil horizon (Layer 204) was revealed at the southeastern end of the trench, sealed by Aggregate 203 and overlying the natural substrate (Layer 205) of greenish grey and reddish brown clay marls revealed throughout the trench at the base.

### Archaeological Features and Deposits

The brown silty clay fill of Slot 206, a short narrow cut feature with a rounded southern terminal was cut by an irregular cut feature (207) in the extreme southeast of Trench 2. Neither feature was excavated and no surface finds were recovered. Fragments of plastic incorporated in the mixed clay and rubble fill provided a modern date for the adjacent irregular pit (Feature 208).

Evidence of modern structural activity within the trench was represented by a series of three rectangular postholes (Features 211, 212 and 213). The mixed fills of two of the features (Postholes 211 and 213) each contained abundant woody fragments indicating that the post had rotted in-situ, whilst, in Posthole 212, the timber post survived as an upstanding remnant packed with redeposited clay and gravel.

Postholes 211 and 212 cut the truncated base of a broad ditch some 1.7 m wide (Feature 210), which crossed the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment. Although unexcavated, a small sump cut in order to drain the trench revealed that the dark brown silty clay ditch fill survived

to a depth of c. 230 mm. A second narrower ditch (Feature 209) extended across the trench on a similar alignment immediately adjacent and to the southeast of Ditch 210. No finds were recovered from Feature 209, but surface finds comprising fragments of animal bone and the neck of a green glass bottle indicated a post-medieval date for the cutting of Ditch 210.

A large boundary ditch (Cut 214) extended westwards over Trench 2 and into the adjoining trench (Trench 1) for a short distance before terminating with a rounded edge. The broad ditch measured c. 2.6 m in width and had a steep U-shaped profile some 900 mm deep, which cut the clay substrate (Layer 205). The base and sides of the ditch were lined with the thick brown silty clay primary fill (Deposit 221), from which the base of a Romano-British greyware vessel (SF. No. 1, **photograph 11**) was recovered alongside other Romano-British pottery sherds and a quantity of animal bone. Further Romano-British pottery and bone was retrieved from the stony secondary fill (Deposit 220) and during cleaning over the feature prior to excavation (Spit 215, **photograph 14**). A complete limestone rooftile of typical Romano-British form (**photograph 12**) was revealed at the base of Spit 215 during cleaning and surface finds included one residual medieval pottery sherd.

Two narrow slots or gullies (Features 216 and 217) constructed on convergent alignments and containing similar charcoal flecked silty fills were revealed to the northwest of Ditch 214. No finds were recovered from either feature, nor from later ditch (218), which truncated Slot 217 to the north.

Unexcavated Features 218 and 222 probably represented two intercutting ditches orientated northeast-southwest across the trench, both of which subsequently were truncated during the construction of post-medieval Ditch 224. No dating evidence was recovered as surface finds from either feature.

North-south orientated Ditch 224 extended beyond the western baulk in the northwest of Trench 2. Excavation of the feature was abandoned when it became flooded with groundwater, revealing only the stepped eastern side of the cut. Both the dark grey clayey primary fill and the black humic secondary deposit (Fills 223 and 219 respectively) yielded quantities of post-medieval pottery and other artefacts. Although recorded as a single cut, in section the form of the feature indicated that Fills 219 and 223 each probably represented a single deposit contained within two separate ditches or gullies, the latter cut by the former. This was supported by the close similarity observed between Fills 219 and 223 and the deposits filling adjacent ditches (Feature 110 and Fill 109 of Ditch 118 respectively) recorded to the south in Trench 1.

### Discussion

Further Romano-British remains were recorded within Trench 2. These included a large boundary ditch and other smaller ditches, as well as narrow gullies or slots possibly indicating former timber structures. Evidence of the post-medieval and modern activity was also located.

### **5.3 Trenches 3 and 4** **Figures 3, 4 and 6: Photographs 5 and 6**

Adjoining Trenches 3 and 4 were laid out in a right-angled arrangement in the south of the site. Trench 3 was orientated southwest to northeast where it junctioned with Trench 4, which extended northwestwards thereafter. In total, the trenches extended for a combined length of 27 m and each was 2 m wide. The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of c. 800 mm below the modern ground surface.

### General Stratigraphy

The modern ground surface over both trenches comprised c.150 mm of concrete (Layers 301/401) bedded on Made Ground 302/402 comprising mixed gravel, aggregate and tarmac fragments, as well as other demolition debris. Made Ground 302/402 varied in thickness over the trenches, ranging between 120 mm and 480 mm, and largely sealed the natural substrate (Layers 308/405) of greenish grey and reddish brown clay marls revealed at the base. This sequence was only interrupted where Made Ground 402 overlay a thin remnant of dark brown silty clay subsoil (Layer 411), which extended partway over Trench 4, sealing the substrate (405).

### Archaeological Features and Deposits

The northern edge of a substantial pit (Cut 313) filled with mixed brown silty clay and limestone rubble (Deposit 307) was revealed at the southwestern end of Trench 3. The feature was sealed by Made Ground 305, a compacted layer of mixed limestone rubble, brick, silty clay and redeposited clays, which had been cut by a modern foundation trench filled with concrete (Foundation 304).

A curvilinear remnant of masonry wall (Structure 303) extended over the centre of Trench 3 on an approximate southwest-northeast-southeast alignment immediately adjacent and to the south of Foundation 304. The wall extended for a distance of c. 6.4 m and was constructed using roughly dressed limestone rubble bonded with brownish yellow sandy lime mortar. Deposit 310, mixed scalplings, concrete fragments and limestone rubble, butted the southern side of the wall (303), which extended southeastwards towards the disturbed remnant of a stone-built culvert (Structure 306/311).

The culvert walls (Masonry 306 and 311) were each constructed using unmortared limestone rubble faced internally and positioned some 400 mm apart, in order to define the culvert channel. No capping stones remained in-situ sealing the channel, which had become filled with medium and large limestone rubble in a gritty, silty clay soil matrix (Fill 312).

Culvert 306/311 truncated the western side of a large pit (Cut 309/412), which extended beyond the junction of Trenches 3 and 4 to the south and east. The pit was filled with a mixed deposit (Fill 413) composed of gravel and redeposited clays in a greyish brown silty clay soil matrix and contained significant quantities of concrete and limestone rubble, as well as brick and other demolition debris. Two further pits (Cuts 404 and 410) of irregular form, also filled with similar mixed deposits (Fills 403 and 409 respectively), were recorded to the northwest, within Trench 4.

An irregular patch of reddish brown silty clay (Layer 408) was cut by an L-shaped foundation trench (Cut 407) filled with concrete and rubble, which indicated the location of a former structure in the centre of Trench 4. The structure continued beyond the trench to the west, but had been truncated to the southeast during subsequent terracing of the ground.

### Discussion

Several structures and deposits of post-medieval or modern origin were located within Trenches 3 and 4. These included rubble filled pits and the foundations of structures probably associated with the use of the site as a farmyard. No archaeologically significant structures, deposits or artefacts were identified.

#### 5.4 *Trench 5* **Figures 3, 4 and 7: Photograph 7**

This trench was orientated northwest-southeast in the southeast corner of the site and extended for a distance of 10.1 m. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1 m below the modern ground surface and was 1.98 m wide.

##### General Stratigraphy

Unlike the other trenches opened over the site, Trench 5 was excavated through the original topsoil and subsoil horizons, which remained in-situ in this area. Topsoil 501 comprised very dark brown humic clayey silt some 230 mm thick and overlay a similar depth of dark brown silty clay subsoil (Layer 502), which in turn sealed greenish grey and reddish brown clay marls (Natural Substrate 505) in the base.

##### Archaeological Features and Deposits

A narrow linear soil feature (Gully 503) some 340 mm in width, crossed the northwestern half of Trench 5 on an east-west alignment. The gully cut the clay substrate (Layer 505) and was filled with aceramic brown clayey silt (Deposit 504).

A substantial pit (Cut 506) was partly excavated by machine in the southeast of the trench where the northern edge of the feature cut Subsoil Horizon 502 and the remainder extended beyond the trench to the west, east and south. The pit had been deliberately backfilled with a sequence of deposits (Fills 507, 508, 509 and 510) tipping into the cut from the north and incorporating varying quantities of redeposited clays and limestone rubble, as well as a thick lens of organic-rich silty soil.

##### Discussion

No significant archaeology was recorded within Trench 5, which revealed only the truncated remains of an undated gully and part of a large modern pit.

#### 5.5 *Trench 6* **Figures 3, 4 and 7: Photographs cover-right, 8 and 10**

Trench 6 was situated in the northeast of the site and extended for a distance of 26.8 m on a northwest-southeast alignment. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 900 mm below the modern ground surface and was 2.01 m wide. The trench was waterlogged throughout the duration of the project.

##### General Stratigraphy

The modern ground surface sealing the trench throughout its length comprised concrete surfacing (Layer 601) c. 110 mm thick. Gravel Layer 602 was some 180 mm in depth providing a thick bedding for the concrete and, in turn, sealing made ground largely composed of a similar depth of aggregate (Layer 603). The natural substrate revealed in the base comprised clay marls (Layer 605) similar to those recorded elsewhere over the site.

### Archaeological Features and Deposits

Ditch 606 crossed the extreme northwestern end of the trench on a perpendicular alignment, cutting the clay substrate (Layer 605). The northern edge of the ditch splayed outwards, but elsewhere it exhibited a moderately steep U-shaped profile. It contained two silty clay fills (Deposits 607 and 615), both of which yielded sherds of Romano-British pottery. Significant quantities of animal bone were also recovered from the fills including part of two articulated dog skeletons, one adult and one juvenile (**Appendix 4**), from the primary fill (615). The Romano-British pottery recovered from the ditch fills would appear to have been entirely residual however, as a handmade body sherd from a medieval earthenware vessel dating to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries was also retrieved from the primary fill (615).

Two unexcavated gullies (Feature 604 and Cut 609) extended over the centre of the trench on a similar northwest-southeast alignment. Little of Gully 604 was exposed, but the adjacent feature (Gully 609) was slightly offset to the immediate southeast and was fully revealed within the trench. It (609) comprised a narrow cut with rounded terminals and extended for a distance of some 4 m cutting the clay substrate (Layer 605). It was filled with Deposit 610, charcoal-flecked dark brown silty clay, from which Romano-British pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> centuries was recovered, and appeared identical to the fill of Gully 604 adjacent.

An unexcavated ditch of substantial width (Cut 611) was located to the immediate south of Gully 609. Ditch 611 followed a similar alignment, but appeared to dogleg slightly to the east partway along its length. The ditch was interrupted to the northeast by a machine-excavated sondage used to drain the trench, truncating the rounded terminal (Feature 608). No dating evidence was recovered from the surface of the ditch fill (Deposit 612), which comprised brown silty clay flecked with charcoal and nodules of redeposited clay.

Ditch 611 was subsequently recut by a second, narrower ditch (Cut 613), which broadened as it extended southeastwards. A dense concentration of animal bone, possibly a burial, was revealed during machining at the surface of the dark grey silty clay fill (Deposit 614), which also yielded several Romano-British pottery sherds broadly dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and including some colour-coated examples.

### Discussion

Romano-British activity was represented by a number of gullies located in the centre and south of the trench. Some of the features identified were intercutting and all appeared to represent boundary features. Medieval activity was also represented by a boundary ditch, probably a field or tenement marker, crossing the extreme northern end of the trench.

#### **5.6 Trench 7** **Figures 3 and 4**

Trench 7 was situated in the southeast of the site and lay closely adjacent and perpendicular to Trench 5. The trench was c. 18 m in length, 2 m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3 m below the modern ground surface.

### General Stratigraphy

The trench was sealed at the surface by Layer 701, which comprised remnants of similar subsoil to that recorded in Trench 5 m mixed throughout with redeposited clays and gravel.



This deposit directly sealed the natural substrate of reddish brown and olive brown clays (Layers 707 and 706 respectively) revealed in the base.

#### Archaeological Features and Deposits

The western edge of a substantial pit (Cut 708) was revealed towards the centre of the trench cutting Clay Substrate 706. The pit extended beyond the trench to the east, north and south and was partly excavated by machine during the initial opening of the trench. The feature was revealed to be in excess of 900 mm deep and deliberately backfilled with a sequence of deposits comprising silty clays and redeposited clays (Fills 702, 703, 704 and 705) incorporating varying quantities of medium limestone rubble and smaller stones.

#### Discussion

No archaeologically significant features, deposits or artefacts were located in Trench 7, which only revealed a large pit of probable modern date.

### **5.7 Trenches 8, 9 and 10**

#### **Figures 3 and 4: Photographs cover-centre and 9**

Adjoining Trenches 8, 9 and 10 were located in the west of the site. Trench 8 extended northwest-southeast for a distance of some 31 m and was adjoined to the west at intervals along its length by perpendicular Trenches 9 and 10 (c. 9.8 m and 7.8 m in length respectively). Each trench was 2 m wide and excavated to an overall maximum depth of 600 mm below the ground surface.

#### General Stratigraphy

Trenches 8, 9 and 10 each revealed the same simple sequence of deposits. The modern ground surface was composed of a layer of mixed aggregate and scalplings (Layers 801, 901 and 1001 respectively), which varied in depth between 100 mm and 250 mm across the trenches and directly sealed the natural substrate of reddish brown and greenish grey clay marls (Layers 803, 902 and 1002). This sequence of deposits was interrupted only on the eastern edge of Trench 8, where Made Ground 802, mixed brick and limestone rubble, filled a long shallow depression in the surface of the underlying clay substrate (Layer 803).

#### Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the trenches and no artefacts were recovered.

## 6 The Finds

### The Romano-British Pottery (Appendix 2)

A small assemblage (112 sherds) of fairly well preserved Romano-British pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD was recovered during the evaluation exercise. The majority of sherds were local greyware products recovered alongside examples of Dorset and Southwest black-burnished wares and included several joining sherds from a single greyware vessel (SF No. 1, **photograph 11**) retrieved from the primary fill (221) of a large boundary ditch (Trench 2, Ditch 214). Four colour-coated sherds from vessels manufactured as fine tablewares were also derived from a recognised, but as yet unsourced local industry. The assemblage was assessed by Dr. Jane Timby (**Appendix 2**).

### Other Pottery (Appendix 1)

A small collection of medieval and post-medieval pottery (57 sherds in total) was recovered from both unstratified contexts and feature fills. The great majority of the assemblage (50 sherds) comprised common post-medieval types including Transfer-printed whiteware (post 1780), Bristol/Staffordshire yellow combed slipware (1650-1800) and locally produced glazed redwares (18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries). The majority of the medieval sherds retrieved dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and were largely abraded. A single sherd from a handmade earthenware vessel dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from the primary fill (615) of Ditch 606 (Trench 6).

### The Animal Bone (Appendix 4)

A moderately sized assemblage of animal bone comprising 383 fragments and weighing c. 4.9kg was retrieved during the evaluation exercise, the great majority contained in feature fills. Just over half of the assemblage (234 fragments) was recovered from the fills of a medieval ditch sited in the north of Trench 6 (Ditch 606/Fills 607 and 615) and included the articulated remains of two large dogs, one adult and one juvenile, in the primary deposit (615). A second possible burial was indicated by the collection of cattle bones recovered from a Romano-British ditch (Ditch 613/Fill 614) in the extreme south of the same trench. The assemblage was assessed by Dr. Naomi Sykes (**Appendix 4**).

### Miscellaneous Finds (Appendix 3)

A small assemblage of miscellaneous finds comprising metalwork, worked stone and glass was recovered. The metalwork and glass assemblages dated to the post-medieval period and included a silver-plated candlestick (**photograph 13**) and copper alloy button (SF Nos. 3 and 2 respectively), as well as several examples of glass bottles. The three worked stone objects recovered however, dated to the Romano-British period and comprised two fragments of tesserae and one limestone rooftile complete with nail hole (**photograph 12**).

## 7 Discussion and Conclusions

The proposed development area has been evaluated archaeologically in accordance with the requirements of the Project Specification issued by Somerset County Council.

The evaluation project has identified evidence of Romano-British, medieval and late post-medieval/modern activity on the site, all of which appears to relate to rural agricultural activity.

Much of the study area appears to have been terraced during the construction of the farmyard and associated buildings erected during the most recent occupation of the site. This has resulted in significant reductions in ground level, particularly in the western part of the site (Trenches 8, 9 and 10) where no stratigraphy survived. Archaeological features and deposits were best preserved in a zone extending over the north of the site. Here Trenches 1, 2 and 6 revealed significant Romano-British and medieval remains, principally represented by soil layers and cut soil features (eg. ditches and gullies etc.). The upper surface of the significant archaeology located in the trenches is preserved at a depth of between c. 250 mm and 400 mm below the modern ground surface.

The physical evidence of Romano-British activity was provided by a series of boundary ditches and gullies, some intercutting, which indicated several separate phases of activity, possibly over a prolonged period. A number of narrow slots or gullies pointed to the possible presence of related earthfast timber structures. The pottery retrieved broadly dated the activity to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, the Later Roman period.

Low intensity occupation during the medieval period was indicated by a scatter of pottery finds dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries and by a boundary ditch located in the northeast of the site. This possibly defined an agricultural enclosure or building tenement close to the church.

Several post-medieval and modern features including pits, ditches and a series of postholes revealed over the site provide evidence of the more recent origins of the farmstead. Masonry structures comprising a wall and culvert were recorded alongside modern concrete foundations and rubble filled pits within Trenches 3 and 4 in the south of the site and further pits were recorded in Trenches 5 and 7 to the southeast.

An extant stone structure in the northwest corner of the site possibly represents the western end of a rank of buildings shown on the 1890 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey plan (**figure 9**), whilst the demolished remains of a second series of buildings sited to the immediate south may be indicated by the masonry wall located in Trench 3. Elsewhere, the same plan indicates that the site was largely undeveloped, occupied by an extensive orchard and small paddock.

## 8 Contractor's Advice

Significant archaeological remains of Romano-British and medieval date are preserved as stratified features and deposits occurring at shallow depth in a zone in the northern half of the site

The Romano-British and medieval archaeology located during the project is considered to be of local importance, but is not deemed to meet the criteria necessary to be considered of *National Importance* (DoE 1990, Planning Policy Guidance Note 16).

The Romano-British and medieval archaeology located on the site is not considered to be of sufficient quality or importance to justify *Preservation In-Situ* (DoE *ibid*) at the expense of

future development. However, as part of the planning process, it is advised that the archaeology preserved on the site should be investigated and recorded in advance of future development in order to ensure that it is fully understood and *Preserved by Record* (DoE *ibid*) prior to destruction.

The final decision concerning the future archaeological treatment of the site rests with the County Archaeological Officer.

## 9 References

### **DoE 1990**

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

### **English Heritage 1991**

*Management of Archaeological Projects*  
HMSO London

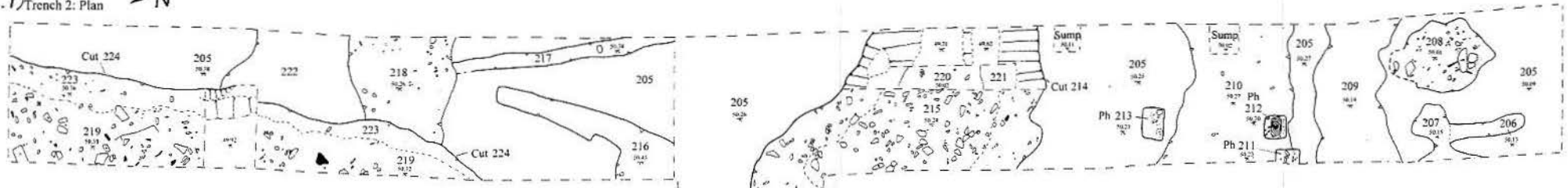
### **Membury S. (no date)**

*Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*  
Somerset County Council

### **Young A.C. 2002**

*Coates Farm, Greinton, Somerset. Scheme of Work for Archaeological Evaluation*  
Avon Archaeological Unit

1) Trench 2: Plan



2) Trench 1: Plan

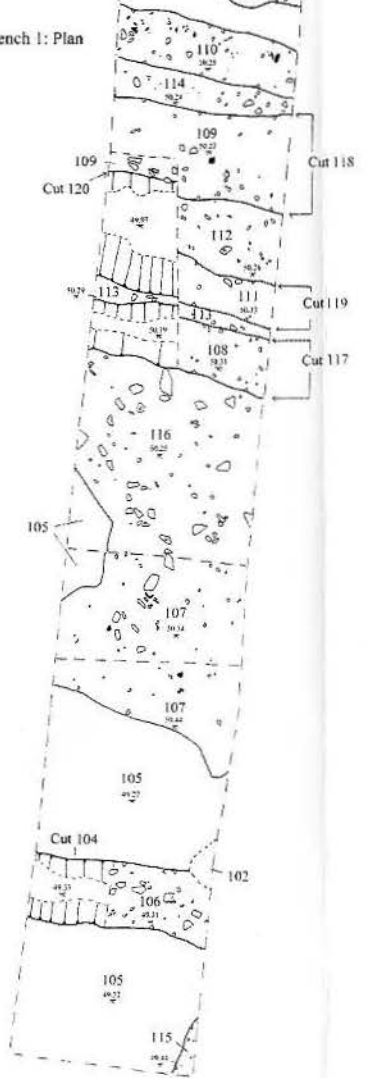


Figure 5  
Plan of Trenches 1 and 2

Figure 6

Plan of Trenches 3 and 4

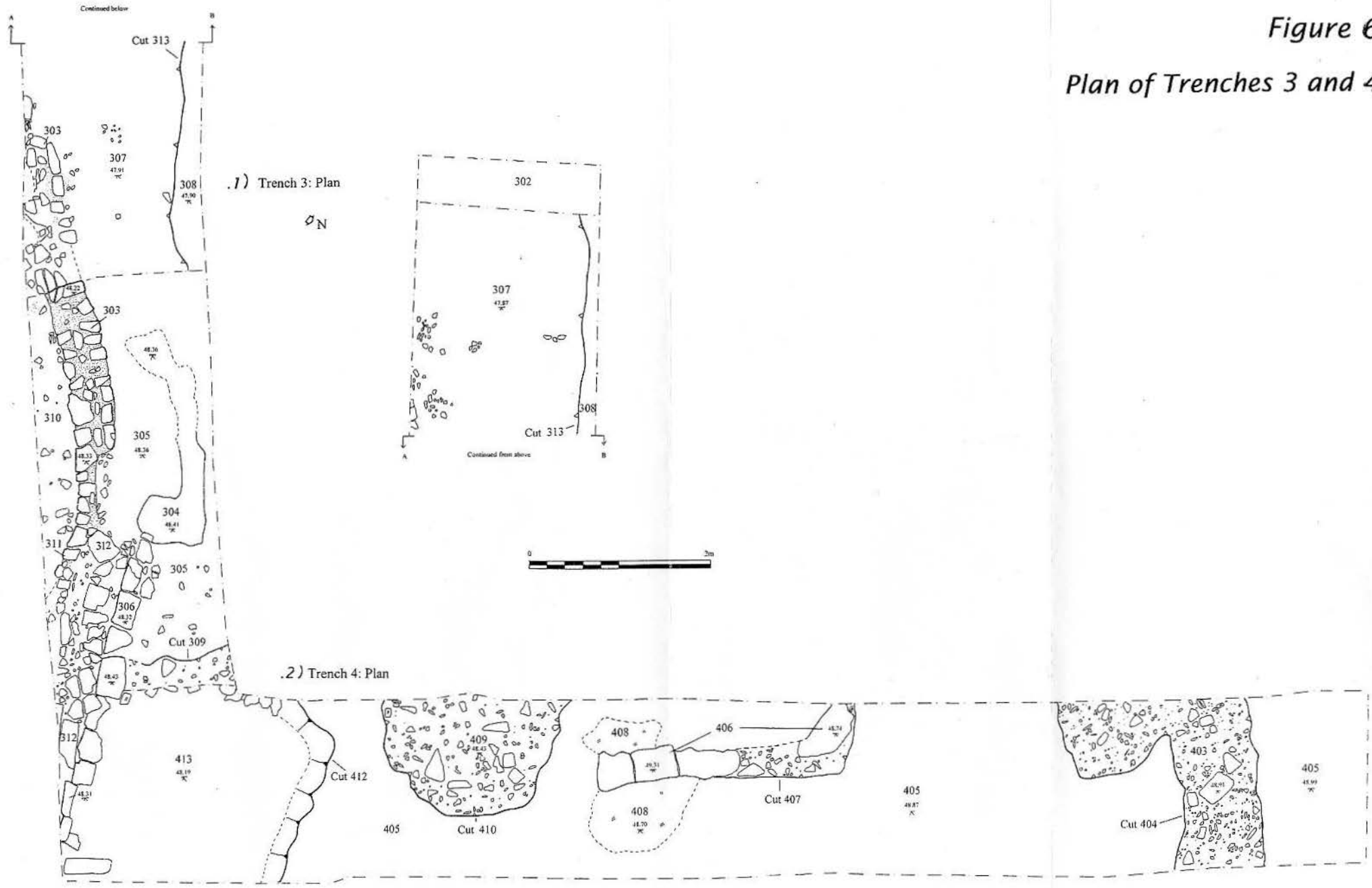

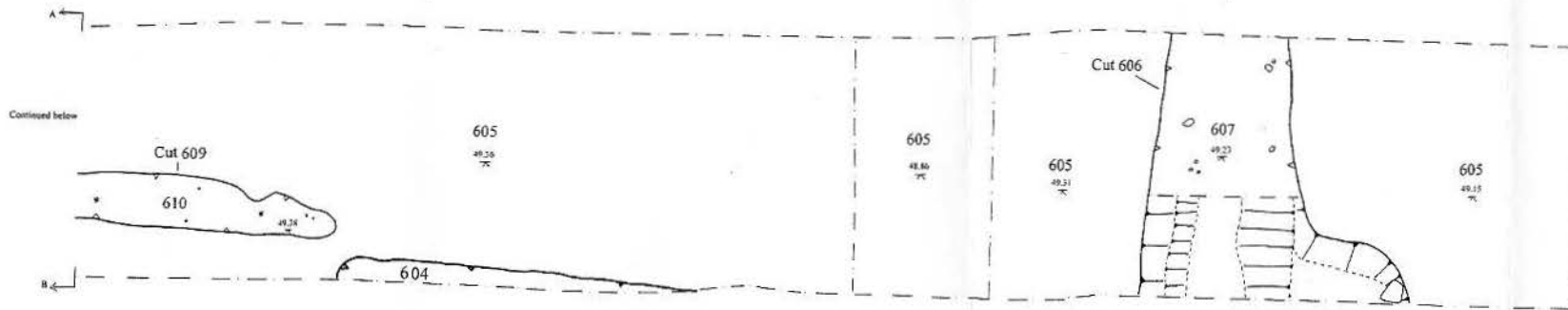
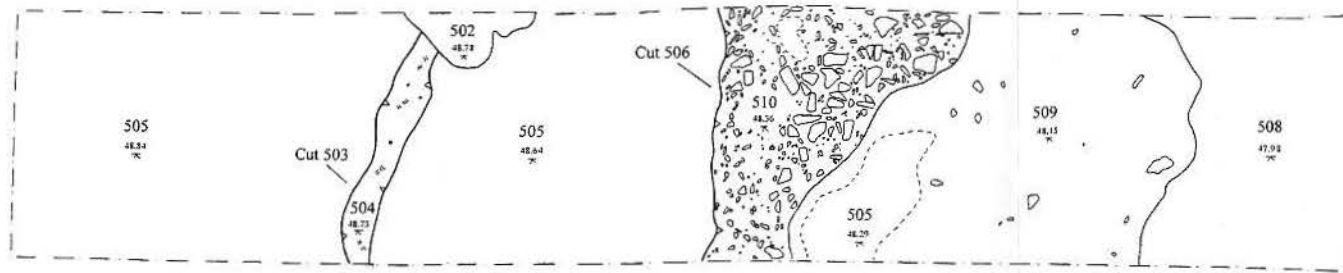



Figure 7

Plan of Trenches 5 and 6

1) Trench 5: Plan 



2) Trench 6: Plan 

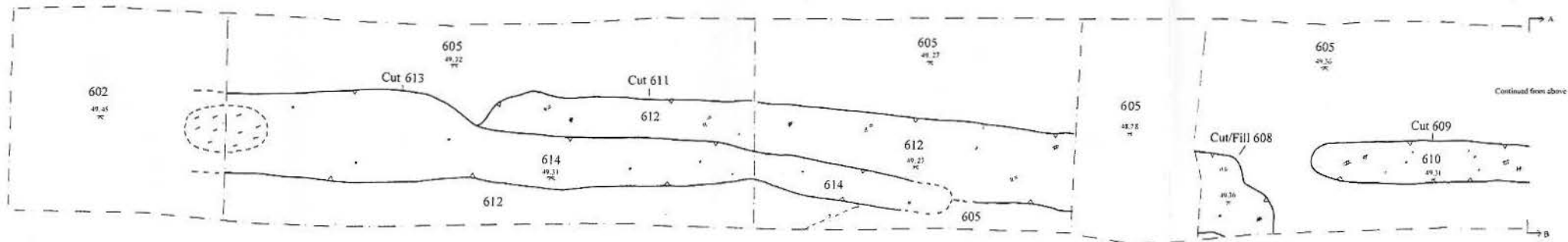
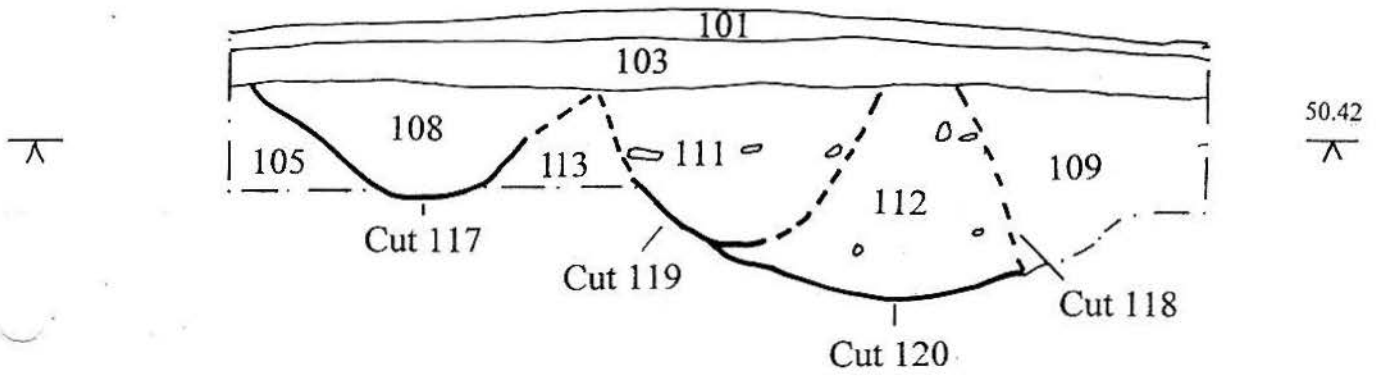


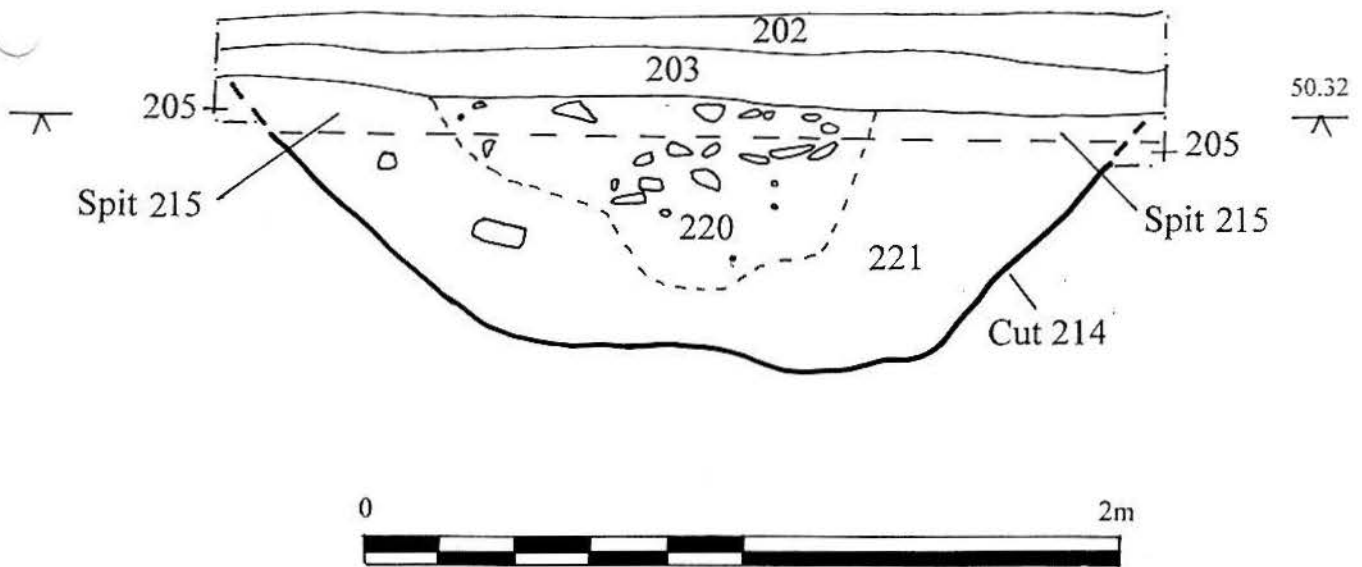
Figure 8

Section Drawings

1) Trench 1: South-East Facing Section



2) Trench 2: South-West Facing Section





*Appendix 1*

*Catalogue of the Finds*

## General Finds Catalogue

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 1	100	Bone	4 bone fragments	4	134	N/A
Trench 1	100	Pottery	3 RB sherds; 4 Med. sherds; 5 P.med. red ware sherds; 1 Bristol/Staffs. Ware sherd; 3 stone ware sherds; 1 iron stone sherd; 3 yellow-glazed earthenware sherds; 2 porcelaineous fabric sherds; 5 misc. white ware, 3 transfer-printed sherds; 2 tile sherds	33	767	Post-Medieval
Trench 1	100	Vessel Glass	1 glass stopper; 1 complete Victorian bottle; 3 ruby shards; 2 polychrome neck shards	7	122	N/A
Trench 1	100	Window Glass	1 flat, circular glass plate/window	1	4	N/A
Trench 1	100	Worked bone	1 bone handle of ?knife; 1 bone toothbrush; 1 bone button	3	27	N/A
Trench 1	106	Bone	3 tooth fragments	3	8	N/A

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 1	106	Pottery	1 RB sherd; 2 very coarse fabric RB sherds	3	57	Romano-British
Trench 1	107	Bone	4 bone fragments	4	15	N/A
Trench 1	107	Pottery	4 RB body sherds; 1 very coarse fabric - RB	5	62	Romano-British
Trench 1	108	Bone	2 animal bone fragments	2	35	N/A
Trench 1	108	Pottery	6 RB sherds	6	25	Romano-British
Trench 1	109	Pottery	1 glazed red ware sherd	1	37	Post-Medieval
Trench 1	110	Bone	1 animal tooth	1	8	N/A

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 1	110	Pottery	2 glazed white ware sherds; 3 yellow-gazed earthenware sherds	5	26	Post-Medieval
Trench 1	110	Vessel Glass	5 olive green bottle glass sherds	5	221	N/A
Trench 1	111	Pottery	1 RB body sherd	1	1	Romano-British
Trench 1	112	Bone	13 bone fragments (incl. 1 tooth)	13	371	N/A
Trench 1	112	Pottery	6 RB sherds	6	65	Romano-British
Trench 2	210	Bone	Four animal bone fragments.	4	119	N/A
Trench 2	210	Vessel Glass	Neck of green glass bottle (laminating).	1	54	N/A

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 2	215	Bone	23 animal bone fragments (incl. 8 teeth)	23	534	N/A
Trench 2	215	Flint	Struck flint flake possibly worked	1	4	N/A
Trench 2	215	Metalwork	Possible iron nail, dimensions 47 mm long very corroded	1	9	N/A
Trench 2	215	Pottery	1 poss.daub frag.; 1 med. Base; 37 RB sherds.	39	519	Medieval
Trench 2	215	Worked Stone	Complete RB roof tile (in two halves), liassic limestone, with nail-hole in top right corner, measuring 436mm long by 225mm broad by 15mm thick.	2	4758	N/A
Trench 2	215	Worked Stone	Possible stone tessera, dimensions 33 mm long x 12 mm wide x 15 mm maximum depth	1	12	N/A
Trench 2	219	Metalwork	Iron window latch 112 mm long, heavily corroded	1	46	N/A

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i> Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 2	219	Pottery	Includes 2 x red ware sherds, 1 with internal green glaze and 13 post-medieval transfer printed white-ware	22	1049	Post-Medieval
Trench 2	219	Vessel Glass	Includes 1 x pink bottle glass shard, 1 x solid clear glass footing and 1 x pale green glass bottle with inscription C Mock Ridge Victoria Restaurant Bridgewater	3	683	N/A
Trench 2	220	Bone	Animal bone fragments includes 1 x tooth	6	156	N/A
Trench 2	220	Pottery	All RB sherds 1 x rim 1 x base and 2 x body sherds	4	71	Romano-British
Trench 2	221	Bone	Animal bone fragments includes 2 x teeth	24	419	N/A
Trench 2	221	Pottery	All RB sherds includes 1 x complete profile with rim	7	46	Romano-British
Trench 4	400	Coal	1 x spent nugget of coal or coke	1	34	N/A

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 4	400	Pottery	1 x red glazed ware body sherd	1	2	Post-Medieval
Trench 4	400	Worked Stone	Possible stone tessera 25 mm x 20 mm x 15 mm	1	25	N/A
Trench 6	600	Bone	Animal bone fragments	5	65	N/A
Trench 6	600	Pottery	All RB 1 x rim 1 x base 1 x body sherd	3	25	Romano-British
Trench 6	607	Bone	Mixed animal bones including teeth	51	1112	N/A
Trench 6	607	Other Stone	Possible stone tessera 10 mm x 15 mm x 50 mm	1	3	N/A
Trench 6	607	Pottery	Includes 6 x RB sherds 1 x Medieval sherd and 1 x white ware post-medieval sherd	8	22	Post-Medieval

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (grams)</i>	<i>Context Date</i>
Trench 6	610	Pottery	All RB sherds 1 x rim 2 x body	3	13	Romano-British
Trench 6	614	Bone	Animal bones	62	597	N/A
Trench 6	614	Pottery	1 x base sherd 8 x body sherds and 1 x profile	10	124	Romano-British
Trench 6	615	Bone	Animal bones including fragments of articulated spine	183	1389	N/A
Trench 6	615	Other Stone	Possible stone tessera 17 mm x 15 mm x 7 mm	1	5	N/A
Trench 6	615	Pottery	2 x RB base sherds, 1 x RB body and rim sherd and 1 x medieval sherd	5	17	Medieval



## *Small Find Catalogue*

<i>Trench No</i>	<i>SF No</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Finds Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Provisional Date</i>
Trench 2	1	221	Pottery	15 x sherds of RB vessel, 9 of which are conjoining giving base profile, some possible white slip decoration	15	205	Romano-British
Trench 4	2	400	Copper Alloy (Cu) Button	Circular flat Cu Alloy button distorted with attachment loop on reverse 28 mm diam	1	3	N/A
Trench 1	3	100	Copper Alloy (Cu)/Silver plate candlestick	3 x fragments of candle holder base 134 mm diam with everted rim, rim fragment 77 mm long bevelled with punch hole decoration, corroded with ?silver plate	3	113	N/A

*Appendix 2*

*The Romano-British Pottery*

by  
Jane Timby

## **THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY**

by Jane Timby

The evaluation work resulted in the recovery of 112 sherds of pottery weighing 11.9 kg. With one possible exception the entire assemblage dates to the Roman period, in particular the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. The sherds were relatively well preserved with at least one example of several sherds deriving from a single vessel (Tr 2 (221)).

Pottery was recovered from Trenches 1, 2 and 6, a total of 14 separate contexts. For the purposes of this assessment the sherds were broadly sorted into fabrics and quantified by sherd count and weight for each context. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1 below.

The range of material was quite conservative mainly comprising local grey wares accompanied by Dorset and South-west black burnished wares. Four colour-coated sherds were also present from a recognised, but unsourced, industry based somewhere in the south-west. Three of the latter sherds came from beakers with a chocolate-coloured slip on an orange fabric; the fourth sherd is a red colour-coated ware, form uncertain. Most of the remaining vessels are jars or bowls. Products of the Dorset black-burnished industry (BB1) include jars, single examples of a flat rim and a grooved rim bowl and some plain-rimmed dishes. One of the local greywares identified resembles Norton Fitzwarren ware whilst other sherds loosely belong to the number of greyware industries operating in the region in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, frequently copying BB1 forms. One sherd from (106) may be Congresbury ware but it is likely that there are several different kilns producing very similar material.

Context 615 contained three Roman sherds and one handmade bodysherd, possibly of Medieval date.

*Table 1: Spot Dates*

Tr	Context	Roman			Med	Total no	Total wt	Date
		local	BB1	colour-coat				
1	100	1	1	1	0	3	32	3rd
1	106	2	0	0	0	2	60	3rd
1	107	3	2	0	0	5	66	2nd/3rd
1	108	2	4	0	0	6	28	3rd
1	111	1	0	0	0	1	3	Roman
1	112	5	1	0	0	6	67	?3rd
2	215	22	15	0	0	37	399	3rd
2	220	1	3	0	0	4	75	3rd
2	221	21	1	0	0	22	250	2nd
6	600	1	1	1	0	3	27	3rd
6	607	0	6	0	0	6	20	2nd/3rd
6	610	3	0	0	0	3	14	2nd/3rd
6	614	1	7	2	0	10	129	3rd
6	615	3	0	0	1	4	21	?Med
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1191</b>	

*Appendix 3*

*Miscellaneous Finds*

by  
Raymond K. Ducker

## Miscellaneous Finds Assessment

### **Metalwork**

Only a very few metal objects were retrieved during the evaluation at Greinton, Somerset. Four items, two of iron and two of copper alloy were recovered from unstratified contexts and feature fills.

#### Iron Objects

Two iron objects were recovered:-

- (i) a thin iron rod with tapering squared cross-section and damage at both ends probably represented the broken shank of a nail. The object was recovered from Spit 215 (Trench 2).
- (ii) an unidentified object comprising a flat tapering strip hammered flat at one end and with a narrow pointed hook at the other was recovered from Ditch Fill 219 (Trench 2).

#### Copper alloy Objects

Two copper alloy objects were recovered from unstratified contexts:-

- (i) SF No.3, a silver plated candlestick with raised rim edging the saucer and central cylindrical candleholder was retrieved from Trench 1 (Context 100).
- (ii) SF No. 2, part of a button comprising a damaged circular disc with an attached small hoop on the reverse was recovered from Trench 4 (Context 400).

### **Glass**

A small glass assemblage dating to the post-medieval period was retrieved during the evaluation exercise. The entire assemblage was recovered from unstratified contexts and feature fills in the north of the site (Trenches 1 and 2).

A total of seventeen glass artefacts were recovered, of which all but one comprised vessel glass:-

- (i) unstratified objects comprised a fragment of windowpane, one glass stopper, one complete Victorian bottle, three fragments from a ruby glass bottle and two fragments of polychrome glass bottle neck (Context 100).
- (ii) five fragments of green bottle glass were recovered as surface finds from Gully 110.
- (iii) the neck of a green glass bottle was recovered as a surface find from the fill of Ditch 210.

- (iv) one complete green glass bottle embossed with the name of a Bridgewater restaurant was recovered alongside one clear glass bottle base and one fragment from a pink glass bottle during the excavation of Ditch 224 (Fill 219).

### **Worked Stone**

Three worked stone objects were recovered, two from a single feature fill (Trench 2, Spit 215 in Ditch 214) and the third as an unstratified find during cleaning over Trench 4:-

- (i) a small fragment of limestone with squared and smoothed faces, probably part of a tessera, was recovered from Spit 215.
- (ii) an unstratified object of squared and faced limestone recovered in Trench 4 (Context 400) may represent a more complete example of a Romano-British tessera, similar to that retrieved from Spit 215, above.
- (iii) a flint waste flake of probable Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date was also recovered from Spit 215.

### **Conclusions**

The very limited size of the metalwork, glass and worked stone assemblages prevents any useful conclusions being drawn from the types and distribution of objects recovered. The majority of finds were recovered from unstratified contexts, although, interestingly, stratified metal and stone objects were largely retrieved from a single feature, a Romano-British boundary ditch revealed within Trench 2. The entire glass assemblage was retrieved from post-medieval feature fills and unstratified deposits in Trenches 1 and 2.

*Appendix 4*

*The Animal Bone*

by  
Dr. Naomi Sykes

## ASSESSMENT OF THE ANIMAL BONES FROM COATES FARM, GREINTON, SOMERSET

Naomi Sykes

December 2002

### *Introduction*

During archaeological evaluations at Coates Farm, Avon Archaeological Unit recovered a small assemblage of animal bones. The remains were retrieved from three evaluation trenches and derived from ditches and gullies of possible Romano-British date, although the phasing is still under consideration. This report describes the potential of these animal bones.

### *Methods*

The assemblage was assessed in December 2002 at the Centre for Applied Archaeological Analyses, University of Southampton. All bone fragments were examined and the number of potentially identifiable and unidentifiable bones was counted, for each context, to provide the basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) total. Any bones and teeth that could provide metrical, ageing or sexing information were recorded, and the presence/absence of butchery, burning and gnawing marks was also noted.

### *Condition*

In order to estimate the potential of the assemblage, the condition of the bone in each bag was graded on a scale of 1 to 5. That graded as '1' was deemed to be in excellent condition, demonstrating little post-depositional damage. By contrast, material graded as '5' had suffered severe surface erosion and could be identified only as 'bone'.

Table 1 provides an indication of bone preservation and it can be seen that most of the material, especially that from Trench 6, was well preserved. Indeed, the surface condition of some of the bone was so good that it questions a Romano-British date.

	Condition					Total No of Bags
	1	2	3	4	5	
Trench 1		2	9	4		15
Trench 2		6	3			9
Trench 6	1	4	3			8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>32</b>

Table 1: Number of bags in each preservation category

### *Assemblage*

Composition of the assemblage is shown in Table 2. In total, 383 fragments were recovered, most of which came from the gullies and ditches in Trench 6. Fewer fragments were retrieved from the other two trenches.



### ***Trench 2***

A total of 62 specimens were recovered from Trench 2. Of the identifiable fragments, cattle are the dominant taxa, followed by sheep/goat, horse and pig. Metrical and ageing data are scarce but 3 horse and 2 cattle bones are measurable; 2 horse and 1 cattle specimens provide epiphyseal fusion data, with dental ageing evidence being available from 1 horse tooth.

### ***Trench 6***

This trench produced the greatest quantity of animal bone: 292 fragments were recovered, of which 94% were identifiable. The high percentage of identifiable specimens was due largely to the presence of 3 partial skeletons; 2 from dogs and 1 from cattle. Both dog skeletons were recovered predominantly from context 615, although some specimens were also retrieved from context 607, suggesting some context disturbance – an idea supported by the find of a sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic within context 615. The dog skeletons were from very large individuals and derived from animals of different ages (adult and juvenile). Neither were represented by their skulls. Similarly, the cattle skeleton (from a sub-adult) was also missing its skull. In addition to these skeletons, 10 horse specimens and 2 belonging to sheep/goat were recovered from Trench 3. Of the fragments belonging to horse, 5 are measurable and 4 provide dental ageing data.

### ***Discussion***

Romano-British sites are very common in Britain and many have produced animal bone assemblages of considerable size (for example King, 1978). As such, it seems unlikely that the small amount of material from Coates Farm, especially that from Trench 1 and 2, will provide any new information that could substantially advance archaeological understanding of the period.

Whilst the overall assemblage is very small, the material from Trench 6 is not without interest. The actual level of significance will, however, depend on the final dating of contexts 607 and 615. Elements of this assemblage, in particular its superior preservation and the presence of 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, are suggestive of a modern date. Should this be the case, it is unlikely that the material will provide much, if any, useful information. Yet, if the assemblage is indeed shown to be Romano-British, some aspects, in particular the three decapitated skeletons seem significant. A considerable amount of work has already been undertaken on Romano-British dogs (for example Harcourt, 1974) and studies of the two skeletons from Coates Farm would add to the growing database. Considering the large size of the individuals, it would be interesting to investigate the possibility that the remains belong to wolf (*Canis lupus*) rather than domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*).

Since the canid individuals were both lacking their skulls and were found close to the decapitated calf skeleton, contextual analysis may also be productive. Romano-British sites often reveal 'special' deposits of animal bones (Wilson, 1996; 1999), and it seems possible that contexts 607/615 reflect ritual, rather than functional, behaviour. Alternatively, inter-site comparison with bone material from similar context types may show that the deposits are simply characteristic of boundary ditch assemblages: both Maltby (1985) and Wilson (1992) have demonstrate the different traits exhibited by different deposit types.

	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Unidentified	Total
<b>Trench 1</b>							
100	2					1	3
106	3						3
107						4	4
108	1					1	2
110		1					1
112	6					10	16
<i>sub total</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1</i>				<i>16</i>	<i>29</i>
<b>Trench 2</b>							
210				4			4
215	3	7	1	3		10	24
220	3	1				2	6
221	15	2	1			10	28
<i>sub total</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>		<i>22</i>	<i>62</i>
<b>Trench 6</b>							
600	2					4	6
607	1	1		5	25	7	39
614	62					2	64
615		1		5	173	4	183
<i>sub total</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>292</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>383</b>

Table 2: Number of identifiable and unidentifiable fragments from Coates Farm

### Trench 1

A small amount of animal bone (29 fragments, of which 13 are identifiable) was recovered from Trench 1. Cattle remains predominate, with sheep/goat being represented by a single fragment. One cattle specimen is measurable (Table 3).

	Trench		
	1	2	6
<b>a) Measurable</b>			
Cattle	1	2	
Sheep/Goat			
Pig			
Horse		3	5
Dog			1*
<b>b) Epiphyseal Fusion</b>			
Cattle		1	1*
Sheep/Goat			
Pig			
Horse		2	
Dog			2*
<b>c) Dental Data</b>			
Cattle			
Sheep/Goat			
Pig			
Horse		1	4
Dog			

Table 3: Number of a) measurable and b), c) ageable specimens.  
N.B. \* = number of partial skeletons

### ***Recommendations***

- On the basis of small sample size, no additional analysis of the material from trenches 1 or 2 is recommended. That said, in the event of further excavations, any bone recovered should be amalgamated with that considered in this report. The resulting assemblage should then be re-assessed.
- Analysis of the Trench 6 material, paying particular attention to the dog skeletons – this recommendation is dependent on confirmation of a Romano-British date. Should the material be shown to be modern, no further work is advised.

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