

**Sycamore
East Ditch
An Archaeological Evaluation
for
Mr D.J.Cornish**



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RAB/20/98

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Contents

1.0.0 Summary	1
2.0.0 Introduction	2
3.0.0 The Site	3
1.0 Location	3
2.0 Topography & Landuse	3
3.0 Geology	3
4.0.0 Existing Documentary & Archaeological Evidence	5
5.0.0 Evaluation Strategy & Methodology	7
1.0 Strategy	7
2.0 Methodology	7
6.0.0 Results	9
1.0 General	9
2.0 Trench 1	9
3.0 Trench 2	10
4.0 Trench 3	13
5.0 Trench 4	14
7.0.0 Finds	17
8.0.0 Summary & Conclusions	20
1.0 Summary of the Evaluation Evidence	20
2.0 Conclusions	20
9.0.0 Acknowledgements	21
References	21
Appendix 1. Recorded Contexts	22

List of Figures

Fig 1 Location	4
Fig 2 Historical Details	6
Fig 3 Site Detail & Trench Location	8
Fig 4 Details of Trenches 1 & 2	11
Fig 5 Details of Trenches 3 & 4	15

List of Tables

Table 1	Catalogue of Iron Age & Romano-British Ceramics & Slag	19
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List of Plates

Cover	Trench 1 viewed from the south showing cobbling	
Plate 1	Details of features in Trench 1	12
Plate 2	Detail of Trenches 2, 3 and 4	16

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1.0.0 Summary

- 1.0.1** *A small scale intrusive site evaluation together with a limited desk based study has been undertaken to provide an assessment of the likely archaeological implications of proposals to develop for housing land to the rear of Sycamore Lodge in the village of East Brent. The desk based study produced no evidence of any documented development of the assessment area in historical time but indicated that medieval and Romano-British finds had been recovered from adjacent sites. The field evaluation indicated that substantial archaeological features survive within the assessment area comprising elements of a probable Romano-British building or other structure underlain by extensive Iron Age occupational remains. The site which lies at the foot of the Brent Knoll Hillfort must therefore be considered of significant local archaeological importance and will require further substantive investigation.*
-

2.0.0 Introduction

- 2.0.1** The following report details the results of a desk based study and small scale intrusive archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Sycamore Lodge off Wickham Way in the village of East Brent. The evaluation was commissioned by Mr D.J.Cornish and conducted by R.A.Broomhead acting as Archaeological Consultant. The field evaluation was undertaken in poor weather conditions between the 2nd and 11th November 1998.
- 2.0.2** The necessity for an archaeological evaluation arose following the submission to Sedgemoor District Council of a planning proposal for the erection of two dwellings and garages together with an associated formation of access (Planning Application ref. 1/24/98/19) The development lies within a core area of the village close to the medieval church where archaeological remains may reasonably be expected and from an area that has previously produced evidence of Romano-British and medieval activity. Consultation with the County Archaeological Officers suggested that the archaeological implications of the proposed development could not be adequately assessed on the basis of currently available information and thus it was advised that a field evaluation of the site be undertaken.
- 2.0.3** In accordance with County Structure Policy AH5 and following advice given by central government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16), the purpose of this report is thus to provide information about the archaeological resource within the proposed development area, its presence, absence, nature and extent. Full details of the methodology employed are given in section 5.0.0 of this report.

3.0.0 The Site

3.1.0 Location

- 3.1.1** The village of East Brent lies at the foot of the northern slopes of Brent Knoll, an outlier of Jurassic limestone rising to 130m OD, surmounted by a Later Iron Age Hillfort with evidence of Romano-British reuse and surrounded by the archaeologically rich coastal claylands. The evaluation site lies within the village at ST 34485185, approximately 100m south-east of the parish church of St. Mary and just north of the former Vicarage which now comprises Rossholme School

3.2.0 Topography and Landuse

- 3.2.1** The site comprises the former garden of Sycamore Lodge and encompasses an area of approximately 2500m² surrounded by a deep, dry ditch. The western portion of the area is laid to a lawn bisected by two substantial flower beds with mature planting and trees, several of which are proposed to be retained by the development that currently comprises two dwelling houses and detached garages. The proposed northern property is to be erected on the site of a former tennis court which has been slightly terraced into the gardens. The southern plot occupies an area of both garden and lawn. The eastern portion of the site lies at just over 6.7m OD and rises slightly to approximately 7.5m OD in the west. Access is via a newly constructed road to the south of Sycamore Lodge which may have already led to the damage of some archaeological features.

3.3.0 Geology

- 3.3.1** The British Geological Survey shows the site to lie at the junction of the Pleistocene & Recent alluvium with the Middle and Upper Jurassic Lias to the west. Three soil groups are also represented in the immediate area of the evaluation. These being the Long Load surface water gley and Hurcot complex gleyed calcareous soils derived from the lias mudstone and clay, and the Butleigh ground water gley whose parent material is riverine clay alluvium derived from Lias rocks

RAB/20/98 Site Location & SMR Detail

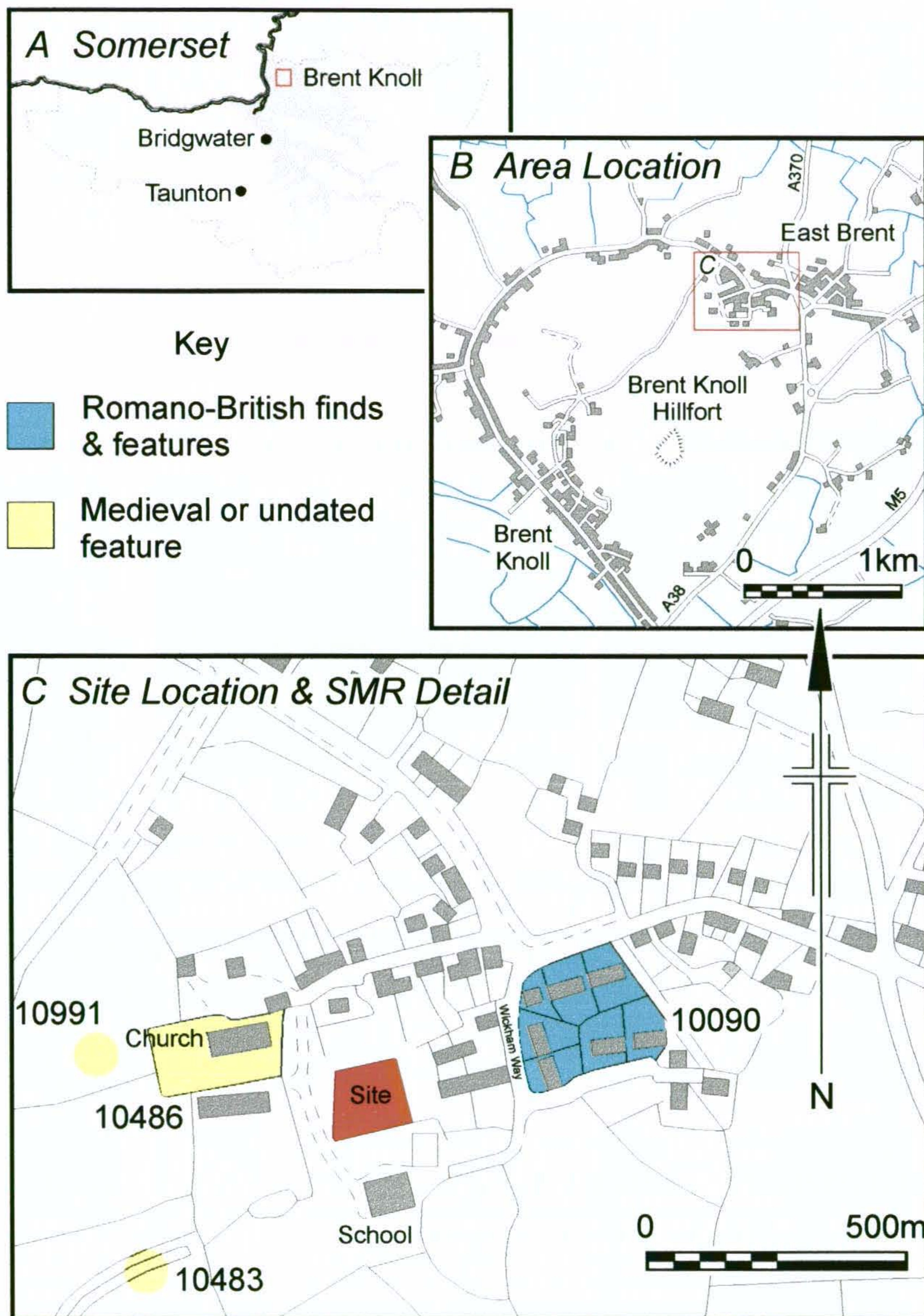


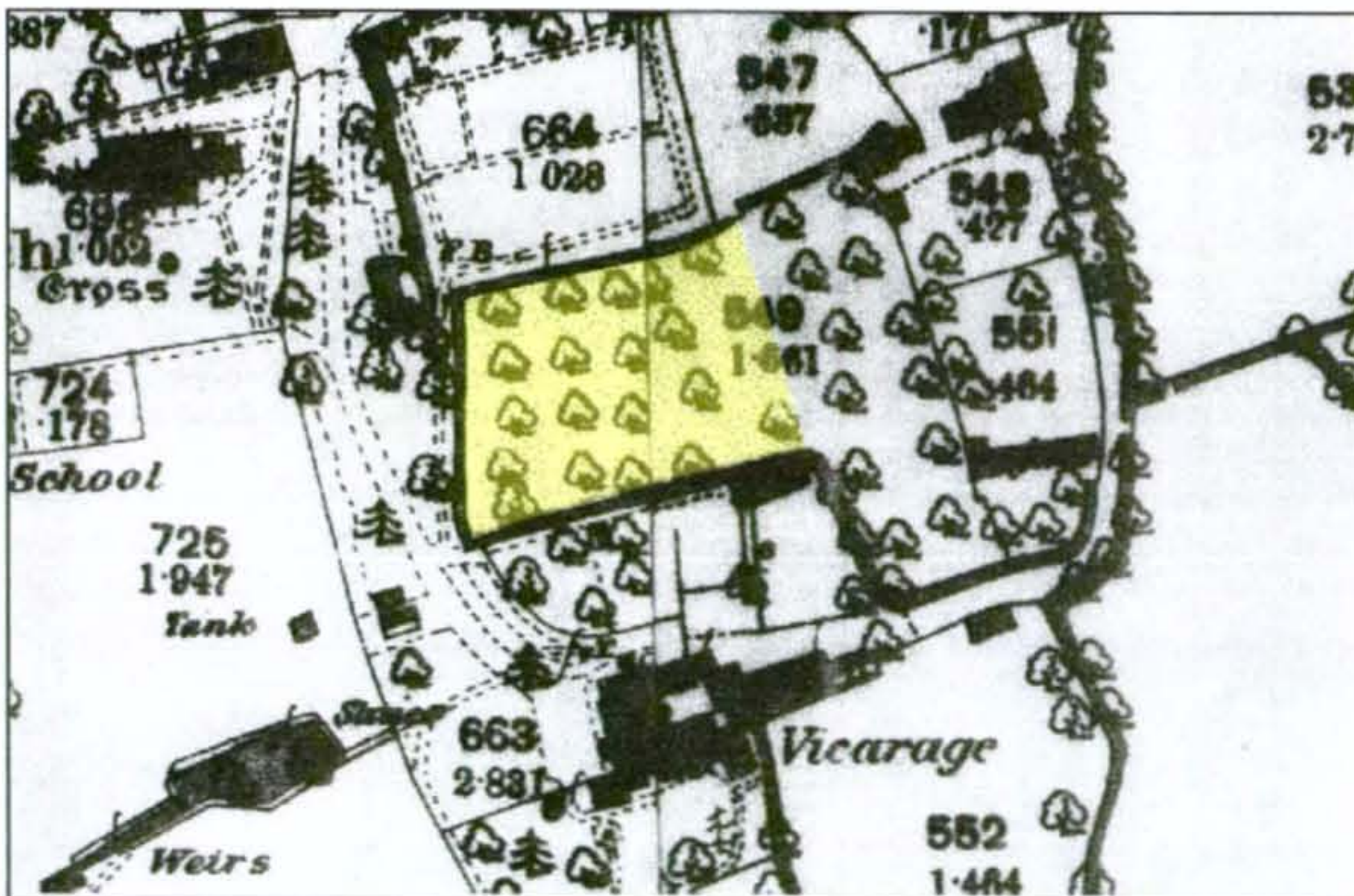
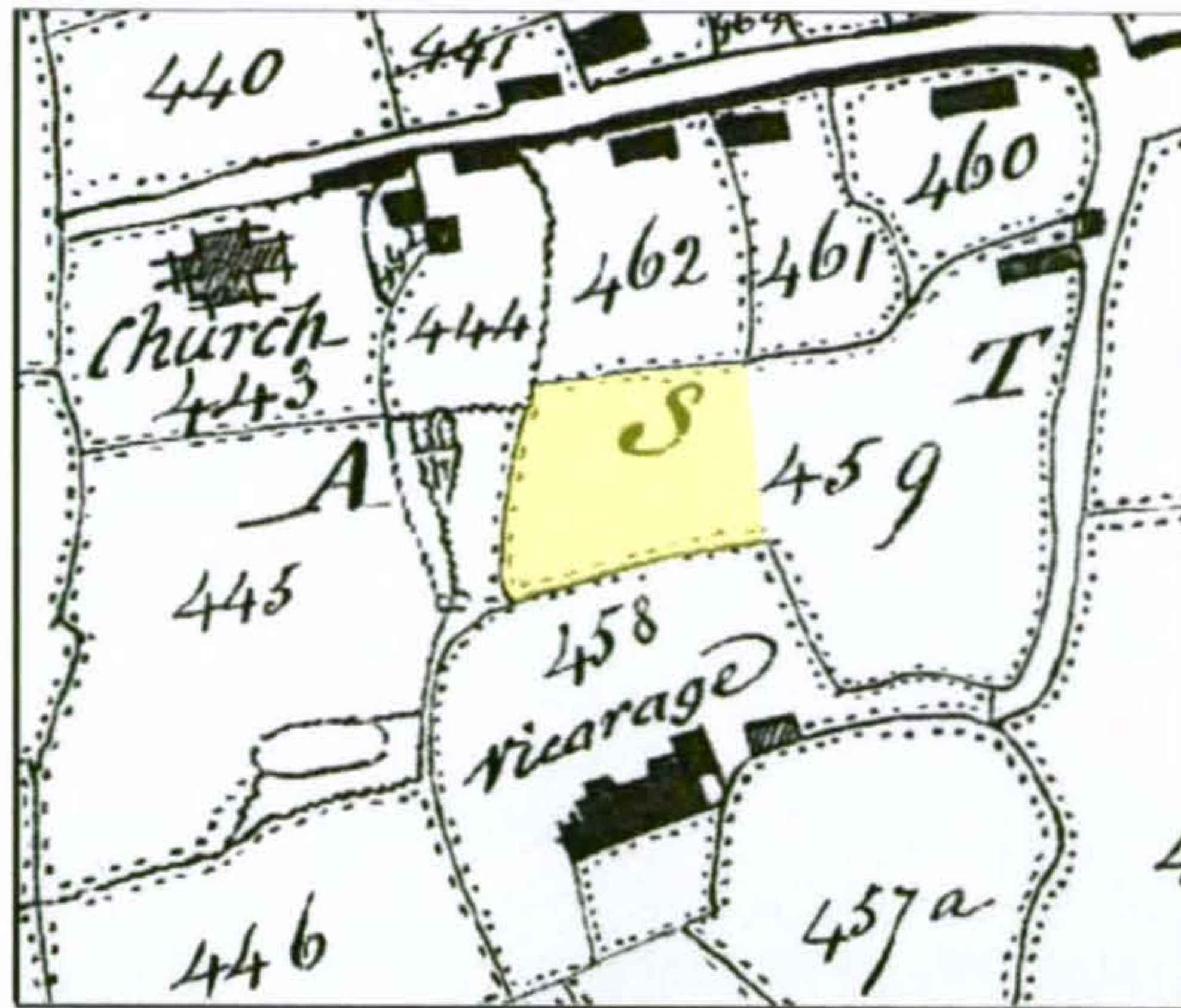
Fig 1

4.0.0 Existing Documentary And Archaeological Evidence

- 4.0.1** All readily available sources of historical information relating to the site and the village were consulted where possible. These included historical maps and documents held in local archives together with published information and material held on the county database (Sites and Monuments Record).
- 4.0.2** No archaeological examination of the proposed development area has been made prior to this study. The County Sites & Monuments Record (PRN 10090) records that a Romano-British rubbish pit containing 3rd – 4th century pottery was cut by a trench during the construction of housing to the east of Wickham Way and that Romano-British and later pottery was also recovered from the same area by Nash (PRN 10989). The site lies at the foot of Brent Knoll, the Later Iron Age Hillfort and other archaeological features atop which comprises County Monument No 24001.
- 4.0.3** The parish of East Brent comprises a component of an estate granted to the Abbey of Glastonbury in AD 693. Recent research suggests this estate may represent an earlier land unit whose origins lie in the later Iron Age or Romano-British periods (Costen. M., 1992. 62)
- 4.0.4** A church is reputed to have been established in East Brent by AD 725 although this claim may be spurious (Costen. M., 1992. 145). The present church however is Perpendicular with late medieval fittings although the graveyard has almost certainly been in use since the earlier medieval period (PRN 10486).
- 4.0.5** The early history of the village has not been examined in detail although a settlement probably existed here in 1086 (Thorne & Thorne 1980. 8,33). *Estbrente* is noted as a separate settlement by the 12th century. The Abbot of Glastonbury had a palace and Deer Park in East Brent in the medieval period (Harvey. J., 1988. 101) and it was only in 1708 that the ancient abbatial manor-house was finally demolished (Harvey. J., *opp cit* 102). The site of this building may well be represented by that recorded on the Tithe Map of 1840 (No. 442 'Site of House') just north of the assessment area.
- 4.0.6** The earliest available historical maps including the Tithe Map for East Brent (1840) and the First Edition Ordinance Survey (1886) are both illustrated in Figure 2. In 1840 the assessment area formed an orchard comprising part of what was later known Church Farm (Tithe No. 459) and was in the occupation of George Gane under lease from Benjamin Symons. The 1886 OS Map shows the land to remain an orchard at that time. Early 20th century maps indicate construction on the road frontage of the site also visible on aerial photographs (*Fig 2c*) and the continuing use of the assessment area as an orchard. These additional buildings are now demolished and their place occupied by modern dwellings. Sycamore Lodge was built in 1981 and the orchard was subsequently landscaped. The site was partitioned for development and road access excavated in the earlier part of this year.

RAB/20/98 Historical Details

A Right: East Brent Tithe Map showing the site in 1840



B Left: East Brent from the 1886 1st Ed. OS

C Right: East Brent from the air in 1946
CPE/UK/1869 No.4317



Fig 2

5.0.0 Evaluation Strategy and Methodology

5.1.0 Strategy

- 5.1.1** The strategy adopted for the evaluation trenching was partially determined by the schedule of works provided by Somerset County Council Environment and Property Department but physically conditioned by the nature of the site.
- 5.1.2** The schedule of works allowed for the opening by machine of two trenches within the application area specifically designed to test the nature of the proposed house sites. (Trenches 1 and 3) Following a provisional examination of these initial trenches, two further trenches (Trenches 2 and 4) were excavated on the recommendation of the County Councils Field Archaeologist. In addition Trench 1 was expanded to test the nature and extent of visible archaeology.

5.2.0 Methodology

- 5.2.1** The trenches were excavated in shallow spits of approximately 100mm by JCB utilising a 1m toothless bucket under full archaeological supervision. Each trench was excavated until significant archaeological features were recognisable or distinct archaeological horizons could be confirmed. Artifactual material displaced by the machine was recorded as unstratified clearance. All removed spoil was subsequently scanned for any displaced artefacts and was also examined by a local metal detectorist.
- 5.2.2** With the exception of Trench 3 which remained partially flooded following significant rainfall after the initial excavation, all of the trenches were subsequently hand cleaned and a single relevant section from each was drawn at a scale of 1:20 levelled to Ordinance Datum derived from a bench mark of 6.33m OD at ST 34585197. Significant archaeological features were hand cleaned and planned at 1:20. A written contextual record was made using *pro-forma* context recording sheets under the site code RAB/20/98. All features were also recorded photographically.

RAB/20/98 Site Detail & Trench Location

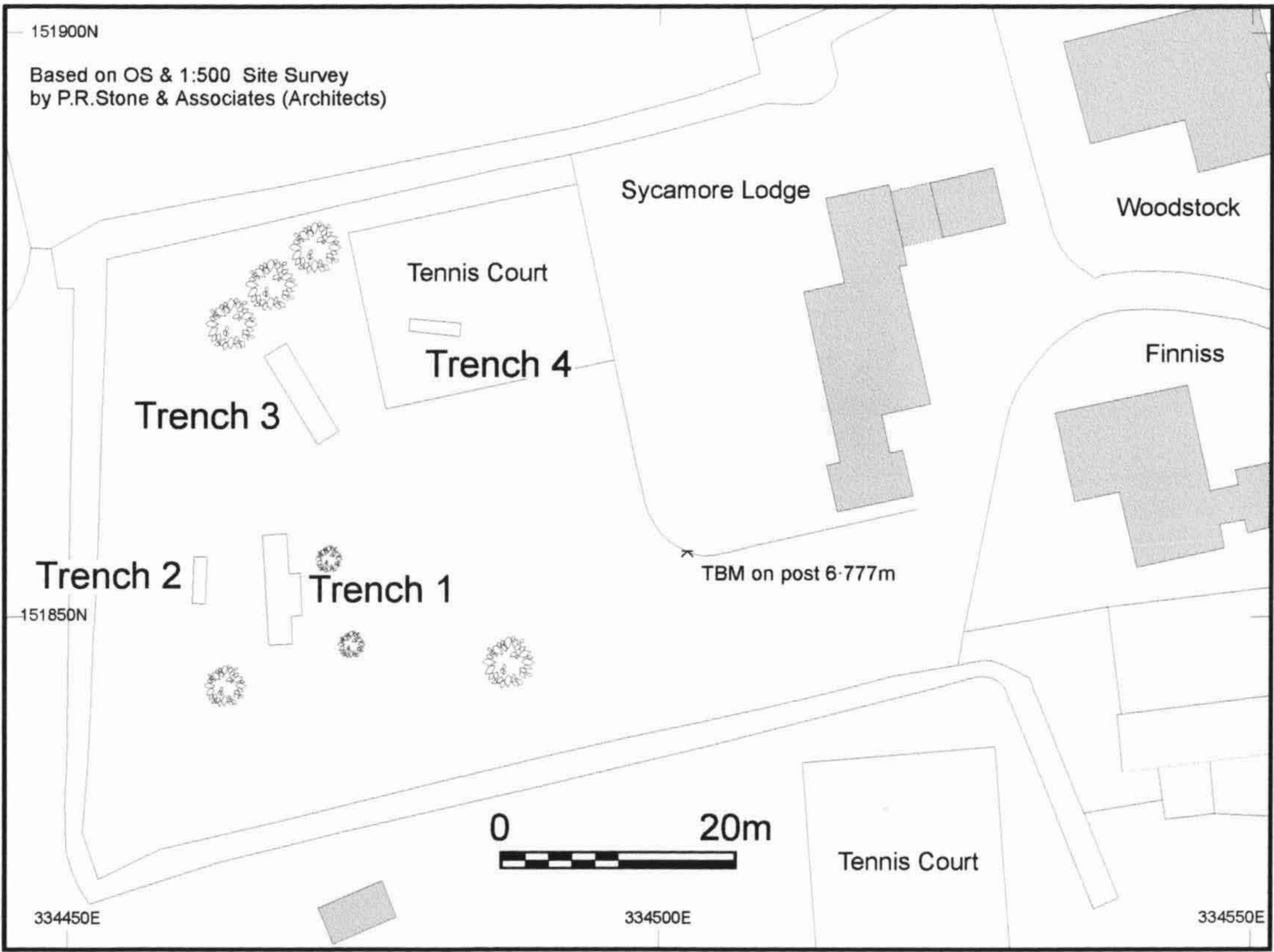


Fig 3

6.0.0 Results

6.1.0 General

6.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during a spell of extremely poor weather which resulted in significant flooding and prevented detailed examination of much of the site. Archaeological material was derived from all four excavated trenches and all four also produced evidence of archaeological activity which was sampled where possible by means of fine cleaning or sondage. Full details of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix 1. In none of the trenches was natural undisturbed stratigraphy recognisable. Note was taken of the excavation of a swimming pool adjacent to a tennis court in the grounds immediately south of the site. Here clearly defined undisturbed mottled yellowish grey clay was recorded at 6.62m OD sealed by approximately 1.2m of overburden. This clay would thus appear to be clearly sinking to the north as in Trench 4 within which a sump was dug to a depth of approximately 5.9m OD no such deposits were observed.

6.2.0 Trench 1

6.2.1 Iron Age

6.2.2 Small fragments of Iron Age pottery together with baked clay and slag were derived from the initial cleaning of Trench 1 with notable concentrations at the northern end of the trench only 0.35m below the ground surface (6.92m OD). Excavation of a sondage here demonstrated the existence of a series of silty or sticky clay horizons [108], [113], [114] and [115] dipping southwards each containing varied quantities of slag, animal bone, pottery and baked clay. At the southern end of the trench, quantities of slag were also noted in a deposit of dark grey brown silty clay [110] which may represent the upper fill of a ditch or additional tipped layer. However no further excavation was undertaken at this end of the trench after flooding.

6.2.3 Romano-British

6.2.4 Prominent within the central section of Trench 1 was a dense layer of worn stone cobbling [F102] forming an approximately rectangular spread defined by a linear feature comprising dark grey brown silty clay [105] to the north and west. Excavation of this feature to the north of the cobbling produced sufficient evidence in the form of a narrow laid stone footing [F106] to suggest this to be the remains of a robbed wall. Context [105] was clearly visible continuing northwards as a linear feature on the north western side of the trench suggesting further structural remains may survive in this direction and that the cobbling itself probably represents the remains of an internal floor. There was however no visible linear boundary to the south of the cobbling. Here a distinct circular arrangement of laid stone [F103] may indicate a pillar base and would seem to suggest an open fronted structure. Just to its north a discrete feature [F104] could be defined as a shallow linear depression within the cobbling containing much small stone and fragments of baked clay. Excavation through the cobbling adjacent to the exposed footing

[F106] indicated the structure to stand on Iron Age material in an horizon containing much evidence of burning [112]. Pottery derived from the cobbling itself was wholly 1st – 2nd century whilst that from context [105] and from [107] which sealed the cobbles was primarily 3rd century in origin.

6.2.5 Post Roman & Modern

- 6.2.6** There was no further evidence of disturbance above [F102] which at its shallowest was less than 0.3m below the surface. Whilst the subsoil [101] contained a small number of both medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds their density was of insufficient quantity to suggest any further significant archaeological activity at this location.

6.3.0 Trench 2

6.3.1 Iron Age

- 6.3.2** Iron age horizons [206], [207], [209] and [210], defined by their pottery content were exposed at a depth of approximately 0.5m (7.04m OD) and as in Trench 1 were visible dipping to the south within a sondage along the eastern side of the trench.

6.3.3 Romano-British

- 6.3.4** Observed Romano-British activity in Trench 2 was confined to the remnants of a stone and bone filled pit [208] at the northern end of the trench. This was observed primarily in the sondage and not fully excavated. Pottery from the pit would again appear to be 1st or 2nd century in date and both this and the Iron Age material to the south was sealed by an horizon of dark reddish brown clay [205] streaked with charcoal and containing further fragments of Romano-British pottery.

6.3.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 6.3.6** Trench 2 exhibited two features of post-medieval origin. At the southern end of the trench a pit [F204] was noted containing fragments of slate and 18th century pottery. Centrally placed within the trench evidence was forthcoming of the sites former use as an orchard in a root filled depression [F203].

RAB/20/98 Details of Trench 1



Above: Trench 1 from the north. [105] in the foreground. Scale 2m

Right: Detail of [F103] (Pillar base?) from the west. Scale 1m



Below: Detail of Sondage after excavation. Scale 1m.

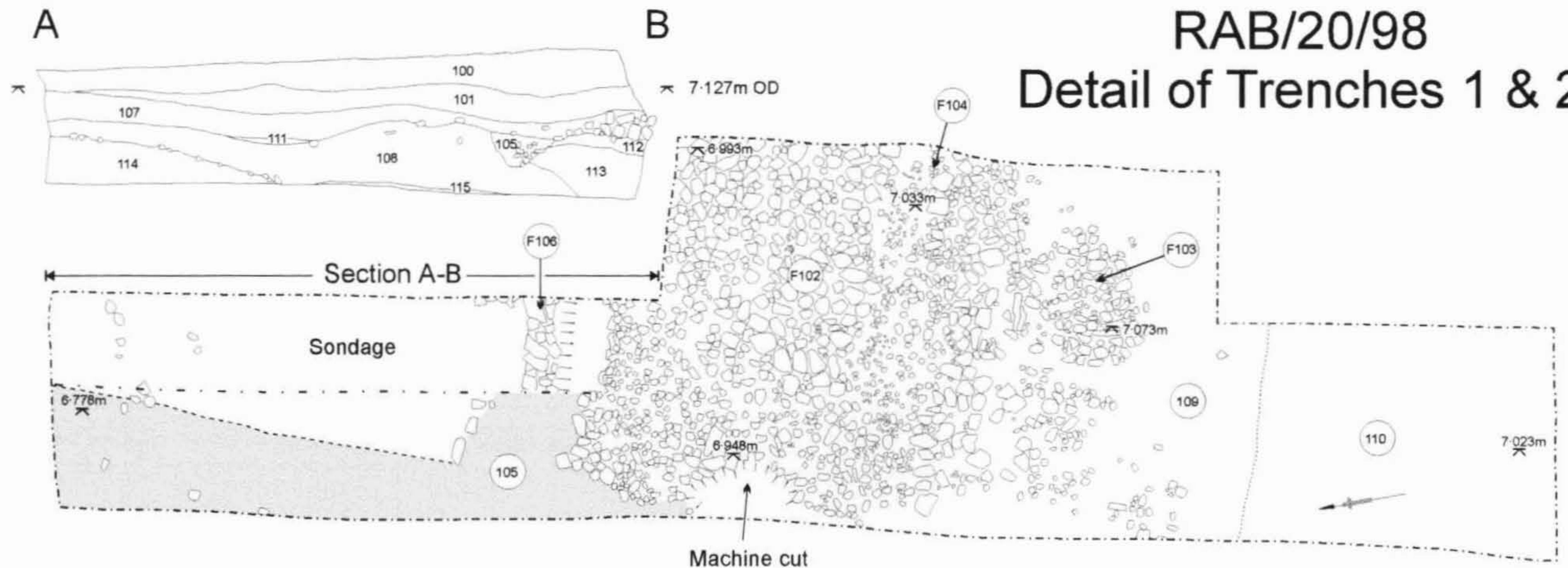


Left: Detail of sondage after partial excavation showing wall footing F106. Scale 1m



Plate 1

RAB/20/98 Detail of Trenches 1 & 2

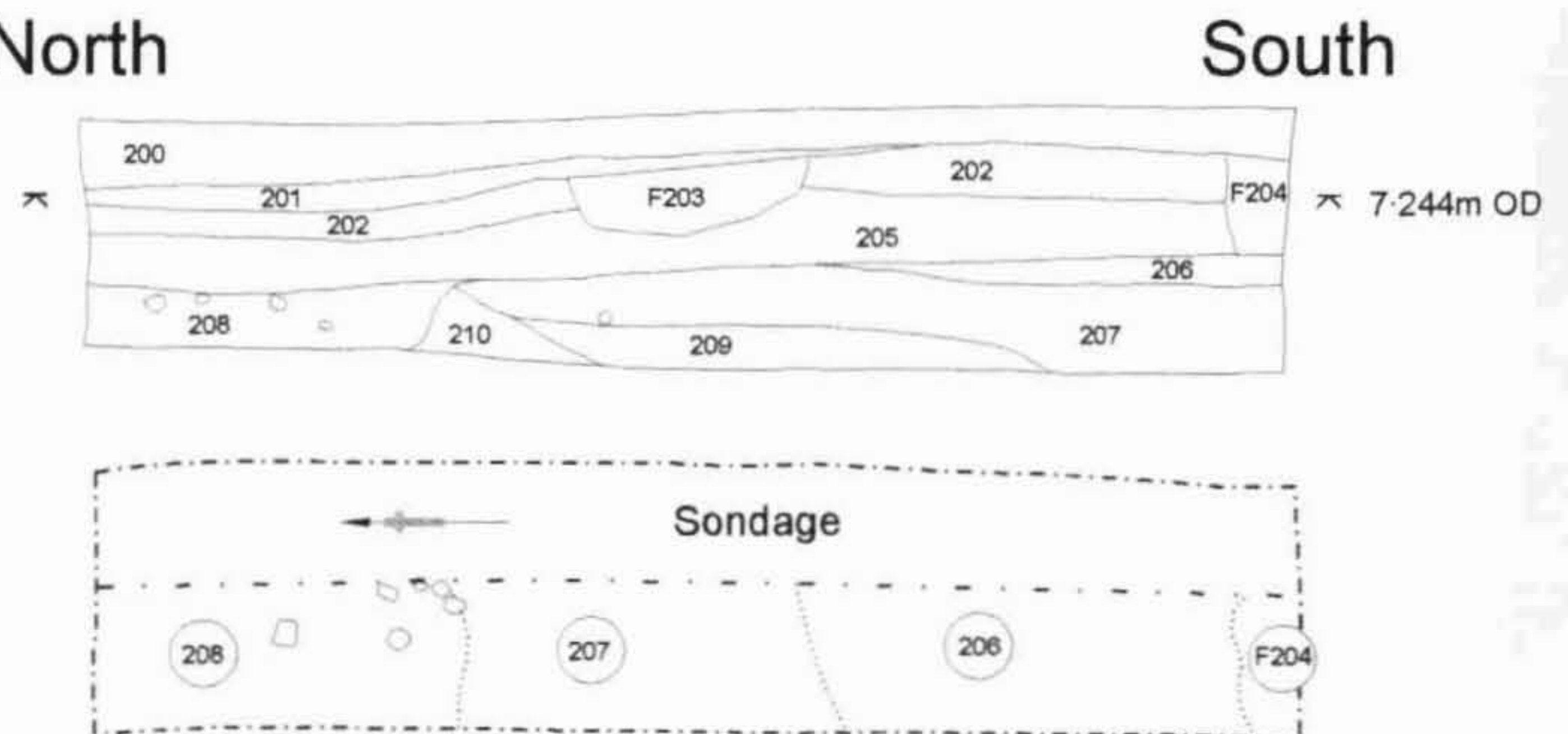


Above: Trench 1
Plan & Section

Right: Trench 2
Plan & West Facing Section



Fig 4



6.4.0 Trench 3

6.4.1 General

6.4.2 Trench 3 was almost certainly over-excavated during the initial machining and was subsequently subject to substantial flooding. Much unstratified material was recovered when the trench was first dug although no features were definable at that time. Although it proved possible to hand clean part of the trench as the waters receded, subsequent interpretation has been based primarily upon poorly defined stratigraphy visible in the eastern section.

6.4.3 Iron Age

6.4.4 Iron age material including substantial quantities of baked clay some containing clear impressions of wattle was derived from an olive green silty clay [304] extracted by machine from the northern end of the trench at a depth of approximately 0.6m (6.42m OD). These clays abutted a layer of charcoal rich dark grey brown clay [307] to the south within which situ stone group [308] contained fragments of Iron Age pottery and more baked clay. Further stone was noted during machining just to the south but this area of the trench was over-deepened and remained flooded throughout the remainder of the evaluation. It is probable that context [305], a stony silty grey brown clay, contained some Iron Age features that were removed from this part of the trench during the initial machine excavation.

6.4.5 Romano-British

6.4.6 A quantity of large and relatively unabraded Romano-British pottery sherds were extracted from the spoil during the machine excavation of the trench but no features of this period could be clearly defined. In section, a continuous horizon up to 0.3m in thickness, of dark olive brown clay containing frequent pottery sherds and small fragmentary stone [303], was recorded and would seem to represent the Romano-British surface.

6.4.7 Medieval

6.4.8 Trench 3 produced the only definable medieval feature recorded during the evaluation. Within the eastern section at the northern end of the trench the remnants of a pit containing a fill of dark reddish brown silty clay [309] with much slate, bone and sherds of medieval pottery was apparent following trowelling.

6.4.9 Post Medieval

6.4.10 The eastern section of Trench 3 was dominated by a large pit containing an obvious animal burial [310]. The cut of the pit was not easily definable but would appear to have begun immediately below the topsoil. This would accord with anecdotal evidence from the present owner of the property who noted that pigs had previously been kept adjacent to the site and carcasses frequently buried here. A second post-medieval pit [306] at the southern end of the trench

was noted during the machine excavation and produced quantities of brick and bottle-glass.

6.5.0 Trench 4

6.5.1 Iron Age

6.5.2 Trench 4 was only accessible for a short period due to rapid flooding requiring continuous bailing. The base of the trench was marked by a dark grey brown clay [404] containing frequent charcoal fragments and occasional sherds of Iron Age pottery at 6.1m OD, 0.6m below the surface. At the western end of the trench a quantity of stone was visible [405] though no distinct structure could be observed.

6.5.3 Romano-British

6.5.4 Iron age deposits appeared to be sealed by an horizon of dark olive brown clay [403] with infrequent stone, occasional bone and several Romano-British pottery sherds. No features or structures were visible.

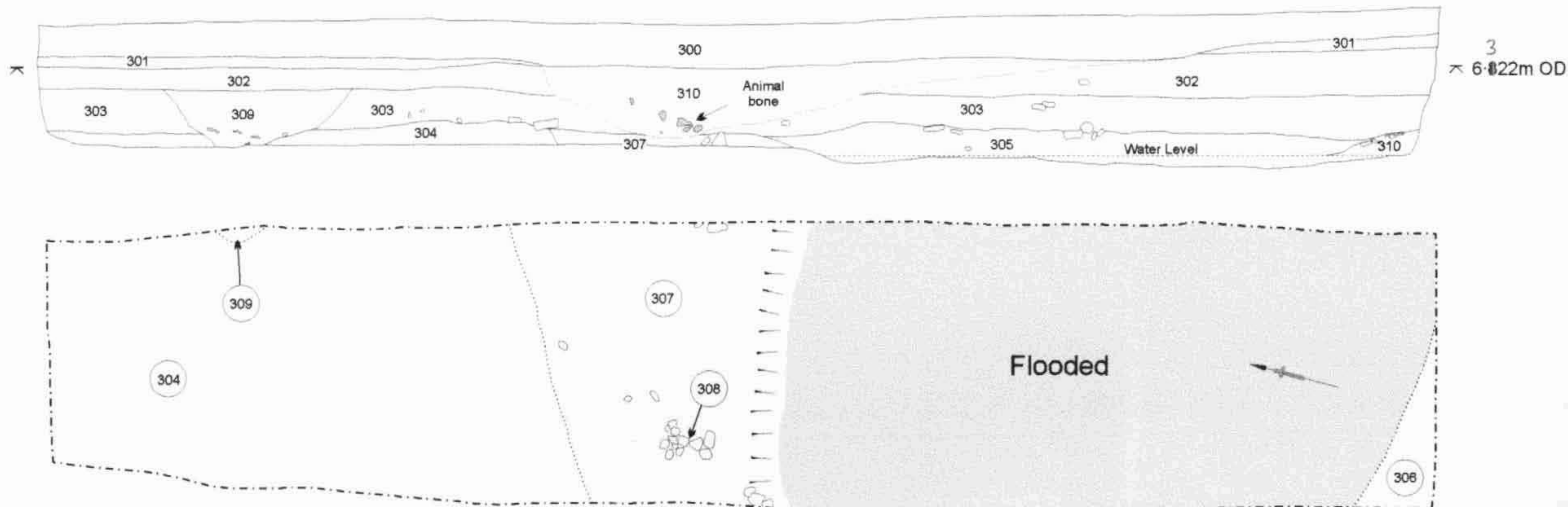
6.5.5 Modern

6.5.6 All stratigraphy above [403] had been removed for the construction of the former tennis court. A layer of sterile dark grey clay [402] had been laid down on which rubble and gravel [401] comprised the makeup for the surface of the court.

RAB/20/98 Detail of Trenches 3 & 4

North

South



Above: Trench 3
Plan & West Facing Section

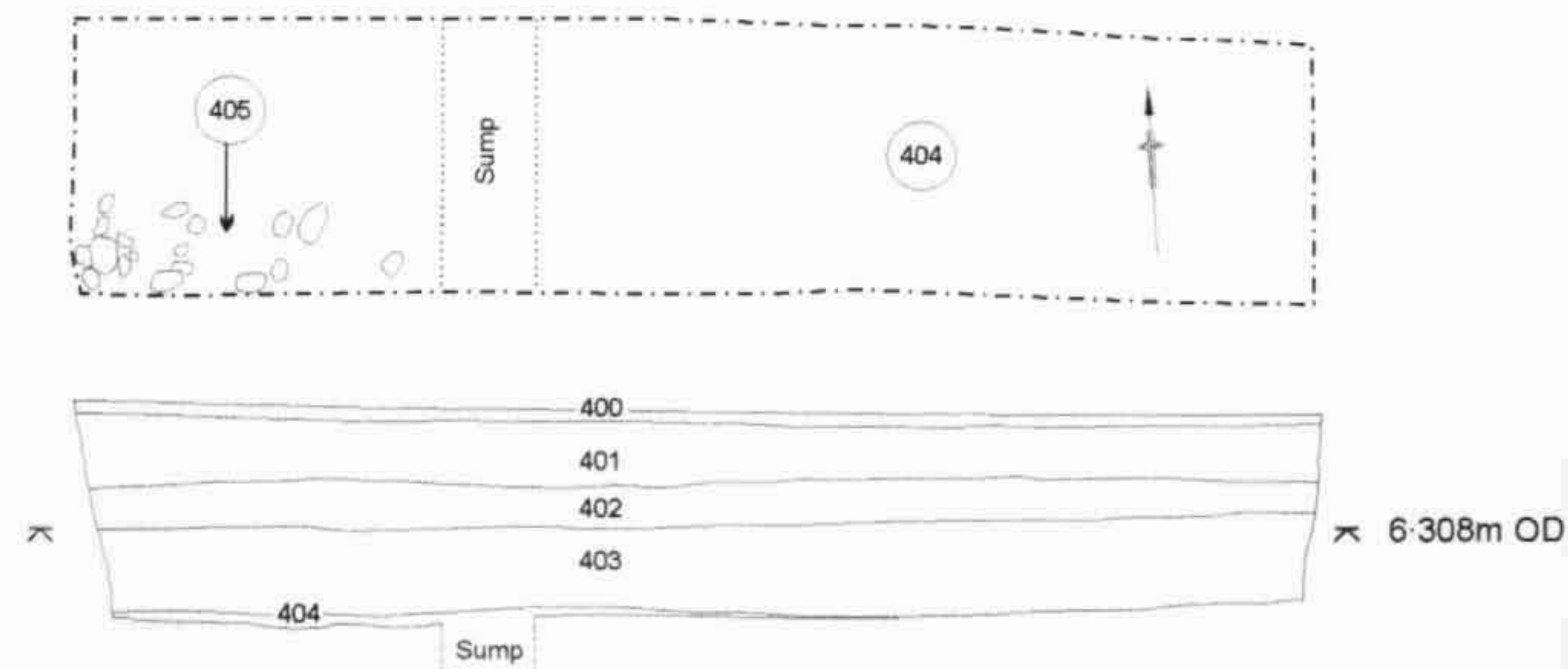
Right: Trench 4
Plan & South Facing Section



Fig 5

West

East



RAB/20/98 Details of Trenches 2,3 & 4



Above: Trench 2 after excavation of sondage showing stratigraphy dipping to the south. Scales 1m.



Above: Trench 2 from the south after initial cleaning. Scales 1m.



Above: Trench 3 from the south. Stone grouping 308 in the foreground. Scale 1m.



Above: Trench 4 from the east showing stoney layer 405. Scale 1m.

Plate 2

7.0.0 Finds

- 7.0.1** All finds were cleaned and quantified by type and weight within each context. Bone although noted during the evaluation was not retained. Three objects, (two nails and a probable Georgian Penny) were recovered by metal detectorists from the spoil heap of Trench 3

7.1.0 Pottery

7.1.1 Iron Age

- 7.1.2** A total of 100 sherds of identifiable Iron Age pottery weighing just under 1kg was recovered primarily from stratified contexts. A detailed analysis of the fabrics has not yet been made however recognisable forms included several decorated sherds of the Middle to Late Iron Age (Meare Village East Fabric 8-Rouillard 1987, 184). A significant number of rim forms were recovered and much of the Iron Age pottery would appear to be heavily tempered with fossil shell.

7.2.0 Romano-British

- 7.2.1** Over 2kg of Romano-British pottery were recovered, just under 90% from stratified contexts. Grey Wares, in particular 2nd-3rd century Congresbury Types predominated but significant quantities of early Black Burnished forms and a small quantity of Samian was also recovered. A small number of unknown fine ware fabrics also occurred on the site.

7.3.0 Medieval

- 7.3.1** Only a small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered, the bulk from unstratified clearance or subsoil. Only 3 sherds were derived from a sealed context in Trench 3 and these would appear to be 12th-13th century.

7.4.0 Baked Clay

- 7.4.1** 69 pieces of baked clay were retained much of which almost certainly represents wall daub, some with clear wattle impressions. Other fragments of baked clay may well represent objects such as loomweights.

7.5.0 Slag

- 7.5.1** A significant quantity of slag was observed during the evaluation and approximately 340gm was retained. This has yet to be analysed. The bulk of the slag was clearly sealed within the Iron Age Contexts.

7.6.0 Objects of Metal

- 7.6.1** Metal detectorist finds have already been noted (7.0.1 above). A single iron nail was recovered from [F102] in Trench 1

7.7.0 Glass

- 7.7.1 A fragment of blue/grey bubble rich and probably Roman glass was derived from context [107]

7.8.0 Flint

- 7.8.1 Two flints, neither diagnostic and both burnt were recovered from context [107]

7.9.0 Building Material

- 7.9.1 The occurrence of daub has already been noted. Several large and apparently shaped stones were removed from Trench 3 by machine but were not retained. Several fragments of Pennant Sandstone probably used as roof tile was also recovered.

Table 1 Catalogue of Iron Age & Romano-British Ceramics & Slag

Context	Iron Age Pottery	Romano-British Pottery				Slag	Baked Clay
		Samian	Grey Wares	Black Burnished	Other		
100			4 [25]	3 [20]			2 [25]
101	8 [55]	1 [5]	14 [170]	11 [45]	3 [40]		7 [55]
102	2 [10]			1 [5]			
105	9 [90]	1 [15]	7 [175]	6 [35]		1 [10]	5 [100]
107	2 [15]	3 [20]	23 [330]	21 [150]	18 [115]	3 [45]	10 [20]
108	16 [260]					1 [40]	
110	3 [20]					8 [75]	
111	1 [5]					1 [5]	
112	7 [45]		3 [15]	1 [5]	2 [15]		7 [90]
113						1 [5]	
114	15 [180]					4 [150]	
Trench 2 U/s			2 [25]		3 [20]		1 [50]
207	8 [55]					1 [5]	
208			8 [60]	2 [15]	1 [10]		
210	5 [45]						5 [60]
Trench 3 U/s	11 [130]	1 [20]	13 [220]	7 [25]	2 [25]		7 [100]
303			13 [300]	3 [50]			
304							8 [420]
307	6 [20]						2 [40]
308	1 [5]						10 [220]
310	1 [10]						2 [90]
403			1 [10]	1 [10]			3 [70]
404	5 [70]						

Note: Weight [] in grams

8.0.0 Summary and Conclusions

8.1.0 Summary of the Evaluation Evidence

8.1.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the following principle points:

- i.) There is archaeological evidence of Iron Age activity within the application area. This activity is extensive and probably representative of both occupation and some form of industrial activity.
- ii.) There is documented evidence of Romano-British activity adjacent to the application area and archaeological evidence for the survival of Romano-British structures within the application area. A Romano-British horizon underlies the site at less than 0.5m
- iii.) There is evidence of limited medieval activity upon the site probably associated with Church Farm to the east
- iv.) There is documented and archaeological evidence for the use of the site as an orchard.

8.2.0 Conclusions

8.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that Iron Age and Romano-British features survive relatively undisturbed within the boundaries of the site. These features are both shallow in depth and extensive in nature and are almost certainly representative of domestic occupation and industrial activity.

8.2.2 Such features must be considered of significant archaeological importance with regards the historical development of both the site and the local environment and it is clear that any development of the site will impact upon them. They are however not unique and their existence should not preclude development provided provision for their fuller examination and preservation by record is made.

9.0.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.0.1 Thanks are due to Mr D.J.Cornish for providing and operating the plant, for assisting with the site levels and for providing additional information about the site. The headmaster of Rossholme School gave access to their land. Local metal detecting enthusiast Keith Usher scanned the site. Information from the Sites and Monuments Record was supplied by Chris Webster of Somerset County Council.

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Appendix 1 Recorded Contexts

Trench 1

Iron Age

- [108] Olive-brown mottled silty clay containing frequent large lumps of slag much animal bone, pottery and occasional dense patches of charcoal. Overlies [114] to the north and [115] overlain by [113] to the south and cut by [F106]. Sealed by [107]
- [109] (?)Possible continuation of [113] Trampled yellowish brown surface just visible at southern end of stone structure [F102]
- [110] Dark grey brown silty clay with fragments of slag noted when trowelling but subsequently obscured by flooding. May represent continuation of Iron Age 'tipping' layers or represent the upper fill of a ditch. Sealing layers machined away and not clearly visible in section.
- [111] Narrow lens of reddish brown slightly humic clay with fragments of slag and pottery. Sealed by [107].
- [112] Granular, silty olive yellow clay with much charcoal, occasional pottery and bone. Sealed by cobble layer [F102]. Overlies [113] Uncertain if cut by footing [F106].
- [113] Mottled sticky yellow clay with fragments of slag. Overlies [108], sealed by [112] and cut by [F106]
- [114] Grey silty clay with frequent pottery, animal bone and randomly dispersed rounded stone up to 150mm. Dips southwards below [108]
- [115] Olive green, apparently sterile clay sealed by [108]. A similar clay is visible in section cut by swimming pool in adjacent property where it lies directly above the natural clays.

Romano-British

- [F102] Cobbled surface comprising densely packed, largely uniformly sized worn rounded stone arranged in an apparently rectangular plan up to 250mm in depth and sloping slightly to the north. Almost certainly representative of a floor level. Seals [112] and sealed by [107]
- [F103] Apparent almost circular arrangement of laid stone immediately south of cobbling [F102]. Pillar base(?).
- [F104] Noticeable linear depression within [F102] lacking larger cobbles and containing much finer stone 20-50mm with frequent red fragments either of burnt stone or baked clay.
- [F106] Linear arrangement of laid angular stone up to 200mm orientated south-east – north-west parallel with the northern edge of the cobbling occupying distinct cut in [108] and [113]. Sealed by [105]. Almost certainly representative of a wall footing.

Late or Post-Roman

- [105] Grey silty clay filling cut occupied by [F106] containing frequent pottery sherds. Continues northwards as a distinct linear feature at the western limit of cobbling suggesting a continuation of the wall footing in this direction.
- [107] Dark brown silty clay with frequent small stone and occasional larger stone up to 100mm together with a mix of pottery, bone and charcoal. Butts up to and overlies cobbling [[F102]. Seals [105], [108] & [111]

Post-Medieval & Modern

- [101] Subsoil. Dark grey brown slightly silty clay with a sticky feel containing varied pottery fragments, bone and random small stone 20-50mm. Seals [107]
- [100] Topsoil. Dark brown humic and well developed.

Trench 2

Iron Age

- [206] Very sticky yellow clay with slight greyish mottling containing fragments of fired clay and burnt stone. Sealed by [205]. Overlies [207]
- [207] Very granular silty dark reddish brown clay with fragmentary pottery, fired clay, burnt stone and animal bone. Sealed (Cut?) by [205] & overlain by [206]. Overlies [209] & [210]
- [209] Very sticky yellow clay with greyish mottling containing infrequent small stone and pottery fragments. Sealed by [207]. Overlies [210]
- [210] Charcoal rich silty dark reddish brown clay with fragments of animal bone and pottery. Sealed by [209]. Cut by [208]

Romano-British

- [208] Pit, ditch or gully visibly cutting [207] & [210] to the south. Clearly defined dark reddish brown clay containing random large rounded stone up to 150mm, animal bone, charcoal and pottery. Sealed by [205]

Late or Post-Roman

- [205] Dark reddish brown clay with some charcoal streaking containing a little fragmentary stone 20-50mm, infrequent pottery and fired clay fragments. Overlies [206], [207] & [208]. Cut by [F203] and [F204] and sealed by [202]

Post-Medieval & Modern

- [F203] Dark reddish brown clay with distinct evidence of root activity occupying bowl shaped depression cutting [202] and [205] but sealed by [201].
- [F204] Dark brown or black sticky and silty clay containing post-medieval pottery and large pieces of slate cutting [202] and [205]. Sealed by topsoil [200].
- [202] Slightly yellow brown silty clay which trowels to a shiny surface. Contains large fragments of fired clay and a little bone. Cut by [F303] seals [205] and is sealed by [201] & [200]
- [201] Dark grey brown slightly silty clay with a granular texture created by small fragments of brick (?) or pottery and ash. Sealed by topsoil [200]. Overlies [20] & [F203]
- [200] Dark brown humic topsoil.

Trench 3

Iron Age

- [304] Olive green – yellow slightly silty clay with apparently random rounded stone up to 100mm and patches of baked clay and daub. Sealed by [303] and cut by [309]. Butts (?) or cut (?) by [307].
- [305] Silty grey brown clays containing occasional angular and rounded stone up to 150mm and several large rounded pebbles. Removed by machine and only visible in section. Sealed by [303] but apparently overlying [310] to the south.
- [307] Charcoal rich dark grey brown clay with occasional bone and small (less the 60mm) stone
- [308] Group of rounded stones 50-100mm with fragments of baked clay and pottery. Lies within and is possibly sealed by [307]
- [310] Small patch of dark grey brown clay with evidence of burning and containing baked clay and pottery visible only in section apparently sealed by [305]

Romano British

- [303] Granular, dark olive brown clay with frequent fragments of pottery, some large, and small gritty stone. Seals [304], [305], [307] & [310]. Cut by [309] & [310]

Medieval

- [309] Fill of probable pit. Dark reddish brown silty clay containing a large fragment of slate, occasional bone and some pottery occupying apparent V shaped cut through [303] and [304]. Would appear to be sealed by [302].

Post-Medieval & Modern

- [310] Fill of an apparently deep, wide pit containing a dark grey brown silt with much large animal bone at its base. The cut of the pit is only clearly definable near the surface and is slightly interpolated in the section drawing.
- [306] Light grey clay observed in machining containing large fragments of brick some 18th century bottle glass and clay pipe. Probably representative of a post medieval pit at the southern end of the trench.
- [302] Dark olive brown clay which trowels up slightly more shiny than [303] below.
- [301] Humic, almost peaty and slightly gritty dark reddish brown soil. Possibly a buried soil layer from the construction of the tennis court.
- [300] Dark brown humic topsoil

Trench 4

Iron Age

- [405] Random but dense concentration of rounded stone at the western end of the trench contained within [404] and sealed by [403]
- [404] Dark grey brown, slightly silty clay with frequent charcoal streaking and occasional pottery

Romano-British

- [403] Dark olive brown clay with a little stone up to 100mm, infrequent bone and pottery.

Modern

- [402] Sterile puddled dark grey clay 200mm in thickness.
- [401] Rubble (concrete and stone) in gravel matrix.
- [400] Tarmac surface of tennis court