

Wessex
Archaeology



LATTON LANDS, NR CERNEY WICK, WILTS

1996.007

Summary of results from Stage 1 of topsoil stripping - July/August 1996
(Phase A: Silt Management Area; Phases 1-3: Access Road)

Prepared on behalf of:-

Cotswold Aggregates Ltd
42 Cricklade St
Swindon

By:-

Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury SP4 6EB

August 1996 - WA Ref. 41838.01

© Copyright Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd 1996, all rights reserved
Trust for Wessex Archaeology Ltd Registered Charity No. 287786

LATTON LANDS, NR CERNEY WICK, WILTS

Summary of results from Stage 1 of topsoil stripping - July/August 1996 (Phase A: Silt Management Area; Phases 1-3: Access Road)

1. Phase A: Silt Management Area

- 1.1 Topsoil stripping of Area A was carried out between 12th July and 2nd August 1996 and was monitored by representatives from Wessex Archaeology. All topsoil/subsoil was removed from this field with the exception of a 10 m wide strip beneath a line of electricity cables which could not be stripped for reasons of Health and Safety. Wessex Archaeology identified a number of archaeological features within Area A (see Fig. 1). These were concentrated in two groups at the northern end of the field, close to the line of the Roman Road known as the Ermine Way (current A419), approximately centred on SU 082 965).
- 1.2 The first of these groups was situated in the north-eastern corner of the field and consisted of around 35 shallow irregular and rectangular-shaped depressions filled with silty clay. Fragments of Roman pottery were found in two shallow depressions (features 25 and 56). Two iron nails were also found in feature 56. None of the features within the group as a whole could be interpreted with any degree of certainty, although it is suspected that many of these hollows are natural depressions in the gravel, in-filled with subsoil which includes Roman material.
- 1.3 The second group of features was situated in the far north-western corner of Area A. This consisted of two parallel linear features (70/73 and 75), and a pit (feature 80) with a shallow elongated feature adjacent to it, on its north side (feature 61).
- 1.4 The larger of the two linear features (70/73) was between 1 m and 1.8 m wide, with an average depth of 0.30 m. The parallel feature (75) was 0.3 m wide and only 0.05 m deep. Ditch 70/73 is believed to represent the southern *Fossatum* (side flanking ditch) of the Ermine Way Roman Road, while ditch 75 is thought to represent the remains of a footpath, running alongside the road itself. A small sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from ditch section 73, while 466 g of burnt stone was found in a further section some 30 m to the east of 73 (section 70). SU09NE300
- 1.5 Pit 80 was found to be 0.7 m deep and filled with a series of burnt deposits. The excavated fill produced 39.487 kg of burnt stone, and four pieces of Roman brick or tile. The elongated feature to the north (61) was filled with a large amount of burnt stone (32.276 kg) as well as yielding a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

2. Phases 1-3: The Access Road

- 2.1 Topsoil stripping along the line of the new access road for Latton Lands Quarry took place between 24th July and 8th August 1996. This stripping was monitored by representatives from Wessex Archaeology. A small group of shallow, irregularly-shaped features was uncovered at the extreme eastern end of the route (see Fig. 2). These features were very similar to the undiagnostic hollows found in the north-eastern corner of Phase A, although no Roman pottery was recovered from the access road features. Feature 5 did however yield eight pieces of worked flint, including a blade core, from its fill. A further piece of worked flint was recovered from feature 9.
- 2.9 Feature 19 was located some 20 m to the west of the main group. It was sub-rectangular in plan and 0.5 m deep. It was in-filled with a number of layers of ash, charcoal and burnt clay. The feature had evidently had a 0.5 m wide trench dug across it from east to west. When emptied of its backfill this trench was found to be the remains of an archaeological evaluation trench (Cotswold Archaeological Trust, 1995). The layers of the exposed section had been labelled with plastic context number tags, which were still present. A quarter of feature 19 was excavated, producing a single sherd of post medieval pottery. The features lie in an area where post-medieval boundaries and/or field divisions are known to exist and are probably associated with them.

3. The finds

- 3.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the monitoring of topsoil stripping in Phase A. These have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context (see Table 1). The finds have been briefly scanned in order to extract details of the nature and potential date range of the various material types; this information is summarised below.
- 3.2 Pottery
With the exception of a single post-medieval sherd from pit 19, all the pottery recovered is of Romano-British date. This comprises 13 sherds of coarsewares, including greywares (including one storage jar rim), oxidised sandy wares and grog-tempered wares; and one sherd in a red-slipped oxidised ware from the rim of a flagon. The jar (from feature 56) and flagon (unstratified in Phase A) are types which can be dated to the early Romano-British period, probably within the range mid 1st to early 2nd century AD; none of the remaining sherds are closely datable.
- 3.3 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay
All of the ceramic building material recovered is likely to be of Romano-British date, although some pieces are far too small and abraded to be diagnostic. None of the pieces could be assigned to specific brick/tile forms. In addition, a single small piece of fired

clay with a possible wattle impression, again probably of Romano-British date, came from pit 80.

3.4 Metalwork and Slag/Cinder

Two nails came from feature 56. In addition, four tiny pieces of slag or cinder were recovered from three features (feature 1, pit 25 and ditch 71).

3.5 Worked Flint

Worked flint derived from two features along the access road (5 and 9). The eight pieces from feature 5 included a blade core, and a blade was retrieved from feature 9; these pieces would suggest a possible Neolithic date for the flint.

3.6 Burnt Stone

Burnt, unworked stone was recovered in some quantity from feature 61 and pit 80, and a smaller quantity came from ditch 71. The date and origin of this material is uncertain, although it might derive from industrial activity of some kind.

Table 1: Summary of finds by context

Quantities are presented by number/weight in grammes, with the exception of burnt stone (weight only) and iron (number only). CBM = ceramic building material.

Feature	Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Stone	CBM	Fired Clay	R-B pottery	P-Med pottery	Worked Flint	Slag	Iron
PHASE A										
-	Unstrat.					3/83g				
Feature 1	2								2/2g	
Pit 25	35			1/132g					1/1g	
"	38					4/8g				
Feature 48	50	1/2g								
"	51	32/102g								
Feature 56	57	4/6g		2/1g		2/78g				2
Feature 61	62		32276g			1/6g				
Pit 63	64	1/3g				2/3g				
Ditch 71	69		466g							
"	74			1/1g		1/3g			1/1g	
Gully 75	76			1/1g		1/14g				
Pit 80	59	2/9g		4/22g	1/2g					
"	60	10/19g								
"	77		39487g							
ACCESS ROAD										
Feature 5	6							8/218g		
Feature 9	8							1/5g		
Pit 19	23	1/32g					1/28g			
TOTAL		51/173g	72229g	9/157g	1/2g	14/195g	1/28g	9/223g	4/4g	2

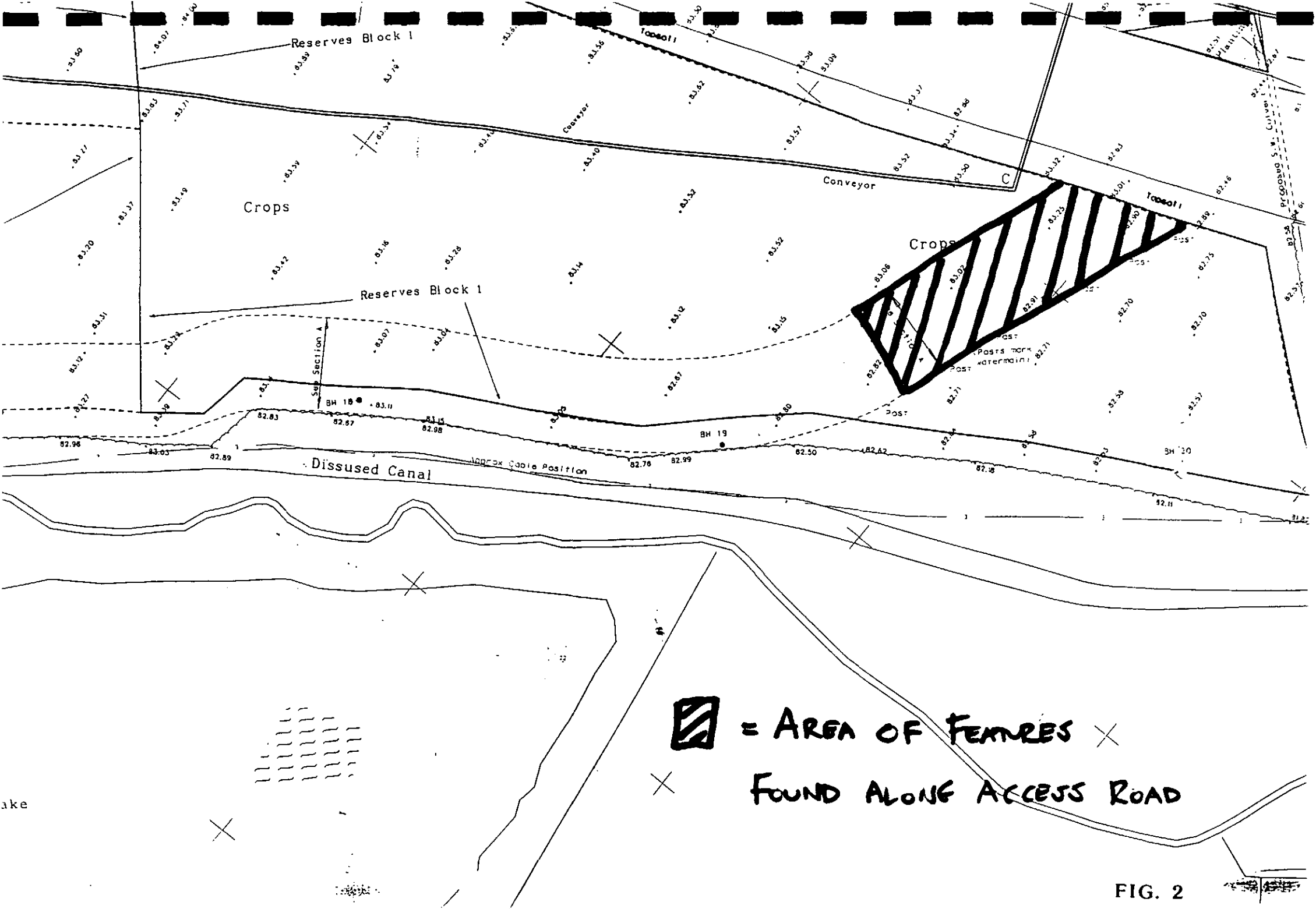


FIG. 2

Wessex
Archaeology

THE TRUST FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Telephone: Salisbury (01722) 326867 Facsimile (01722) 337562
(Registered Charity No. 287786)