LAND AT SHOWELL FARM
CHIPPENHAM
WILTSHIRE

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT
AND
UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	**Land at Showell Farm**
Location:	Chippenham, Wiltshire
NGR:	ST 907 712
Type:	Excavation
Date:	Summer 1999

From July to September 1999 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT), now Cotswold Archaeology, carried out an archaeological excavation at Showell Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire on behalf of Crest Nicholson Properties, now Nicholson Estates.

The application site (Fig. 1) was subject to a two stage cultural heritage assessment, desk-based assessment followed by archaeological evaluation (DPDS 1999). No archaeological sites were known from within the Study Area's limits. However, there was good evidence for archaeological activity in its immediate environs. Full details of this evidence are summarised in the desk-based assessment (DPDS 1998).

Many of the evaluation trenches were devoid of archaeological features, but in the northern part of the site linear features of Roman date, together with a single Bronze Age gully were encountered (Fig. 3, Areas B and C).

The archaeological excavations at Showell Farm investigated three areas A to C (Fig. 2). Area A lay approximately 250m to the south of Area B. In Area A, 28 test-pits were hand-dug to natural deposits to assess the distribution of lithic artefacts across the area. Area B was the subject of a full excavation, whilst in Area C four evaluation trenches were excavated in an attempt to further define the extent of archaeological deposits which spread beyond the limits of Area B.

No archaeological features were identified during the excavation of the test-pits in Area A. A few additional worked flints (37) were recovered as a result of hand sieving the topsoil from the test-pits. Archaeological deposits were identified across the excavation in Area B. Dateable features fell into four chronological periods of activity on the site ranging from the Early Bronze Age to Romano-British period. Features identified include a possible Roundhouse, trackways and fieldsystems, ditches and pit of Roman date. Of the four trenches excavated in Area C one, trench 4, contained no archaeological deposits and

another, trench 3, exposed only part of a buried soil of uncertain date. The features found in trench 1 were of a similar character to those found in Area B, e.g. gullies, ditches and pits often containing a wealth of artefactual material. One of the ditches in trench 1 and another in trench 2 were possibly part of the period 4 field system found in Area B. However, the same ditch in trench 1 was cut by a gully and a pit, possibly representing a later phase of Roman activity.

This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered during the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional, and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 From July to September 1999 Cotswold Archaeology (CA: then Cotswold Archaeological Trust, CAT) carried out an archaeological excavation for Crest Nicholson Properties, now Nicholson Estates at Showell Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 907 712; Fig. 1). The excavation was undertaken in anticipation of construction of a business park development, a scheme which is now on hold pending publication of the North Wiltshire Local Plan.

1.2 Topographically, the ground level slopes very gently towards the A350 to the east, with the exception of the north-eastern part of the site which lies on a gentle rise at approximately 54-55m AOD.

1.3 The site covers *c*. 25ha and is centred on ST 907 712, and lies to the south of Chippenham, immediately to the east of the main railway line. The northern and eastern boundaries of the site are formed by the A350 Lacock to Chippenham road, whilst the southern boundary of the site is formed by a length of the Chippenham bypass.

1.4 The excavated area occupies what was formerly agricultural land and the underlying geology across the southern half of the site is mapped as Cornbrash, with Kellaway Clay to the north (BGS 1990). The approximate position of the geological division is shown on Fig. 2.

Archaeological background (Fig. 1)

1.5 The planning application for the business park was accompanied by an Environmental Statement which included a cultural heritage assessment that comprised an initial desk study followed by a field evaluation (CAT 1998., DPDS 1998). No archaeological sites were known from within the Study Area's limits. However, there was good evidence for archaeological activity in its immediate environs. Full details of this evidence are summarised in the desk-based assessment (op cit). An overview is given here.

1.6 Flint assemblages recovered testify to Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Early Bronze Age activity from just beyond the limits of the Study Area, primarily along the route of the new Chippenham bypass and during investigations around Showell Nurseries,

immediately to the east of the A350, where cut features of these dates were also identified.

1.7 Evidence for Roman activity, previously identified from cropmarks in some instances, has also been excavated at the sites mentioned above. This took the form of trackway ditches, boundary ditches, gullies, and domestic debris including pottery and animal bone. The desk-based assessment identified the need for an archaeological evaluation of the site, to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the proposed development area. The evaluation was duly carried out (CAT1999a) and the results presented as a technical appendix to the previously prepared cultural heritage assessment (CAT 1999b).

1.8 Many of the evaluation trenches were devoid of archaeological features, but in the northern part of the site linear features of Roman date, together with a single Bronze Age gully were encountered (Fig. 2, Areas B and C).

1.9 This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered during the project. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional, and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1.9 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed project design for excavation (CAT May 1999c) which was approved by Roy Cranham, County Archaeological Officer, Wiltshire County Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims and objectives of the excavation in relation to Areas A and B were:

- To determine the full extent of the archaeology in the Area B;
- Establish the stratigraphic sequence in Area B;
- Recover a larger assemblage of dateable artefactual material from both Areas;
- Try and place Area B in its wider setting;

- Establish whether the site in Area B had an earlier precursor.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Two areas of excavation were defined in the project design, each focused upon an area of archaeological features identified from the evaluation (Fig. 2). Area A extended over an area *c*. 120m by 80m and comprised a flint scatter which appeared to fit into a wider pattern of lithic distribution in the Chippenham area. Area B represented the area of a probable Roman farmstead or the like occupying the higher land above the river Avon. A further subsequent Area, C, was evaluated during fieldwork, in an attempt to clarify further the extent of archaeological deposits that were spreading beyond the limits of Area B. At the conclusion of fieldwork a short summary report on the results of the excavation in Area B was produced (Holbrook 1999), as well as a report on the results of the evaluation in Area C (Thomas 1999).

3.2 Within Area A, a series of 1m² test pits was hand excavated on a 25m grid across an area which measured 120m by 80m. This included both of the recognised lithic scatters and their immediate surrounds. The test pits were excavated through the topsoil down to the underlying limestone brash at a depth of 0.25m. A 20% sample of the material from each test pit was hand sieved on site through a 10mm mesh. Where features were identified the hand-dug pits were expanded up to a maximum total area of 100m².

3.3 In Area B, topsoil was stripped, under archaeological supervision, using tracked excavators equipped with toothless ditching buckets. Once the topsoil had been stripped and the surface of the underlying substrata exposed hand excavation took place. The evaluation demonstrated that archaeological features only became visible at this level.

3.4 Where archaeological deposits were encountered further work was undertaken by hand following CAT Technical Manual 1: *Field Recording Manual* (1996). Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description. Principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans and sections (normally at scales of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50). Photographs were taken at regular intervals.

3.5 All finds and samples were recorded in accordance with the CAT *Finds and Environmental Manuals.* Examination of features concentrated on recovering the overall site plan including the site extent, the stratigraphic sequence, and recovering an adequate sample of dateable finds. Archaeological deposits were sampled to the following levels: burials/cremations 100%; pits, postholes and similar non-linear features 50% minimum; whilst linear features such as ditches, gullies and tracks required a maximum 10% sample from each feature. Bulk samples of up to 30 litres were collected for deposits showing environmental potential. Samples for more specific analyses were taken as appropriate.

4. RESULTS

Fieldwork summary (Fig. 2)

4.1 The archaeological excavations at Showell Farm investigated three areas A to C (Fig. 2). Area A lay approximately 250m to the south of Area B. In Area A, 28 test-pits were hand-dug to natural deposits to assess the distribution of lithic artefacts across the area. Area B was the subject of a full excavation, whilst in Area C four evaluation trenches were excavated in an attempt to further define the extent of archaeological deposits which spread beyond the limits of Area B. The results are presented below by area and period.

Area A

4.2 No archaeological features were identified during the excavation of the test-pits. A few additional worked flints (37) were recovered as a result of hand sieving the topsoil from the test-pits.

Area B

4.3 Archaeological deposits were identified across the excavation area. Dateable features fell into four chronological periods of activity on the site. There were some features across the site that produced no artefactual material or that did not share stratigraphic relations, but which may be provisionally dated by their form and association with the other features on the site. For ease of reference most features, irrespective of period, have been placed into groups, for example Roundhouse (RHa-RHb) and discussed in relation to the Period 4 field system shown on Fig. 3. Further work on the artefactual assemblage may allow a phased sequence to be refined in due course.

Period 1: Bronze Age roundhouses

4.4 Two roundhouses were identified, RHa towards the eastern corner of the excavation area and RHb towards the northern corner of the excavation area. Roundhouse A comprised a shallow drip-gully with a diameter of approximately 11m and a north-eastern facing entrance. No internal features survived but two sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from the fill of the drip-gully.

4.5 Roundhouse B had been heavily truncated by later features but appeared to comprise a drip-gully with a diameter of approximately 7m that may have been recut once. There was no discernable entrance. No internal features were identified.

Period 2: Romano-British

4.6 This period is characterised by the construction of a number of linear gullies. The majority of these were located towards the northern edge of the excavation area. Three gullies C, D and E were identified running from north-east to south-west. A further two gullies F and G were located perpendicular to these. A number of sherds of late 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery were recovered from these features.

4.7 A further three gullies H, I and J were identified, although their relationship to the gullies C to G was not established. Gully H was aligned north/south and again contained pottery dated to the late 1st to 2nd century. Gullies I and J differed from the others in that they were deep and steep sided. A large quantity of late 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered from their fills.

4.8 The function of the gullies is unclear; however the regular layout of gullies C to G would suggest that they were used as boundary markers, possibly to separate small agricultural plots. The spatial and stratigraphic relationship between these gullies may indicate two phases of construction. The differing alignment of the gullies H to J would suggest that they were not part of this system of plot division. The nature of gullies I and J may indicate a more structural use, such as a palisade.

4.9 In addition to these gullies a number of other features have been ascribed to this period. The majority are gullies, although there are several large pits. The gullies share an alignment with the gullies C to J and /or were cut by later features.

Period 3: Romano-British

4.10 In this period, ditch K, aligned north-east to south-west, cut across four of the period 2 gullies (E, F, H and J). A number of pits and postholes were located immediately to the north-west of ditch K. These may represent activity within an enclosure partially demarked by ditch K. The ditch and a number of the pits and postholes contained late 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery.

Period 4: Romano-British

4.11 The final phase of Roman activity is represented by two trackways (A and B) and an associated field system. The trackway A was defined by two parallel ditches L and M. The trackway ran from east to west across the whole of the excavation area. The ditches were approximately 8m apart at the western edge of the excavation area, widening to 18m at the eastern edge.

4.12 A system of fields (A to F), divided by the ditches N and S, was discernable on either side of trackway A. The layout of these ditches towards the western edge of the excavation area would suggest that this field system was constructed in more than one episode. It would appear that a second trackway B, orientated north/south and defined by two parallel ditches Q and R was constructed in this area during just such a later episode.

4.13 Within the fields defined by the ditches a number of discrete features were identified. These included a drying oven (Field C), two wells (Field F), several gullies, O, P, T and U (Field E) and a number of shallow pits (Fields C and E).

4.14 In addition, two inhumations and three cremations were observed. Of the inhumations, grave V, was located towards the southern corner of the site (Field E). It had clearly been disturbed and reburied. The other, grave W was found in the northern corner of the excavation area (trackway B). The cremations X, Y and Z consisted of cremated bone and pyre debris buried in shallow, sub-circular pits (Field C and F). Cremation Z produced one sherd of 2nd-century pottery; the remainder of the burials produced no dateable artefacts and could be of Bronze Age or Roman date.

Area C

4.15 Of the four trenches excavated in Area C one, trench 4, contained no archaeological deposits and another, trench 3, exposed only part of a buried soil of uncertain date.

The features found in trench 1 were of a similar character to those found in Area B, e.g. gullies, ditches and pits often containing a wealth of artefactual material. One of the ditches in trench 1 and another in trench 2 were possibly part of the period 4 field system found in Area B. However, the same ditch in trench 1 was cut by a gully and a pit, possibly representing a later phase of Roman activity.

Stratigraphic record: factual data

4.16 Following the completion of the excavation an ordered, indexed and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with specifications presented in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991). Stratigraphic context matrices and an interim stratigraphic summary for the site were produced. The archaeological archive consists of the following elements:

Archive	**Evaluation (SFC 99)**	**Excavation (SFC 99)**
Context sheets	50	638
General plan sheets (1:100)	-	12
Detailed plans (1:10, 1:20 & 1:50)	5	10
Section drawings (1:10 & 1:20)	-	226
Matrices	-	14
Environmental sample sheets	-	56
Special Finds Register	-	65
Test Pit recording sheets (Area A)	-	28
Photographic archive		
Colour slide films	2	13
Black & white films	2	13

4.17 Context types represented in the archive include linear ditches and gullies, roundhouse gullies, pits and postholes, a drying oven, a well, inhumations and cremations.

4.18 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy is assessed as being fair. Archaeological remains have survived as negative features. Clear stratigraphic relationships are present. Even though there is much similarity amongst the pottery assemblage interpretation of and the assignment of provisional dates to recorded features has been possible in most cases.

Stratigraphic record: statement potential

4.19 A thorough synthesis of the stratigraphic archive is fundamental to understanding the site as it will produce the temporal and spatial framework upon which the information gained from analyses of other aspects of the site archive can be related to one another.

4.20 The stratigraphic record also offers information on the construction, form, organisation, use, development, disuse, and ultimate disappearance from the visible landscape of the various features and structures recorded during the excavation. By considering these elements spatially and temporally with one another, a view of the changing character and landuse of the site can be established.

4.21 The artefactual assemblages recovered from the Roman features is remarkably similar, although the dating evidence from the Bronze Age roundhouses is clearly distinct too. Assimilation of the dating evidence contained within the artefactual and environmental datasets into the stratigraphic record will assist in determining a chronological phasing for this framework.

Artefactual record: factual data

4.22 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate. The following quantities of finds were recovered:

Type	**Category**	**Sherd/frag. Count**	**Weight (g)**
Pottery	Early Bronze Age	3	56
	Late Iron Age	6	27
	Roman	5542	42598
	Post-med./modern	5	60
	Total	**5556**	**42741**
CBM	Brick/tile	6	1118
Fired clay	Objects and misc.	585	6546
Flint	worked	110	-
Glass	vessel	4	-
Metals	Copper-alloy coins	6	-
	Copper-alloy obj.	24	-
	Iron	35	-
	Lead	7	-
	slag	-	208
Stone	objects	3	-
	Building stone	3	-

Pottery

4.23 Pottery amounting to 5556 sherds, 42.74Kg was recovered. The bulk of the pottery dates to the Early Roman period (*c*. 70-150/80 AD), with additional small quantities of Early Bronze Age, Late Iron Age, post-medieval and modern material.

4.24 Two Early Bronze Age fineware Beaker sherds were recovered from the gully fill of roundhouse A and an unstratified sherd of Beaker coarseware. Later prehistoric

material is restricted to six small sherds of probable Late Iron Age date, most of which are residual and derive from well B (2), ditches H and K (3) and a gully (1).

4.25 The early Romano-British material is predominantly of probable local (north Wiltshire) manufacture and comprises sandy reduced or oxidised wares, together with grog-tempered greywares (Savernake ware) and Dorset Black-Burnished ware. Samian ware, consisting mainly of material from South Gaul makes up approximately 1% of the Roman group. Of note among the Romano-British assemblage is a quantity of Wiltshire Imitation Samian (see Appendix 1).

Ceramic Building Material

4.26 Small quantities of Roman tile, six fragments, weighing 1118g, were recovered. Tegula and a box flue tile fragments are identifiable, together with undiagnostic pieces. All fragments are of a similar pale orange fabric with common red iron oxide and rare quartz and calcareous inclusions. Of the four identifiable pieces the box flue tile and a single tegula derive from ditch U and two fragments of tegula derive from ditch S, both are period 4 features.

Fired Clay

4.27 Fired clay items recovered include two probable sling missiles of Late Iron Age or earlier Roman type and two loomweights of early Roman type. A larger quantity of fragmentary material of uncertain function was also recovered.

Flint

4.28 A total of 110 pieces of worked flint was recovered, of which 37 derived from hand sieved test pits. Of the excavated material, most is demonstrably residual, deriving from Roman features. A small proportion of the worked flint, most notably blades and a microlith, can be dated to the Mesolithic period. Other tools including scrapers and arrowheads date to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age.

Coins

4.29 Six copper-alloy coins were recovered, although only one comes from a stratified deposit. The remainder are either unstratified or derive from subsoil horizons. Four of the coins are Roman and two post-medieval. The condition is extremely poor and only three of the coins were firmly identifiable. The one stratified coin is of Domitian and dates to 81-96 AD.

Metal Artefacts

4.30 Objects of copper alloy, iron and lead date primarily to the early Roman period. Post-medieval or modern items were recovered mainly from topsoil and subsoil horizons. Of note among the Roman material are seven brooches of copper alloy and iron which are dateable by form to between the mid 1st and 2nd centuries. Finger rings and a cosmetics grinder are additional personal items of a similar date.

Metallurgical Residues

4.31 A very small quantity of metallurgical residues (208g) was recovered from deposits assigned to Period 2. Such material represents restricted evidence for ferrous metalworking activity in the Early Roman period, most likely in the form of smithing.

Worked stone

4.32 Objects of worked stone comprise three fragments of Old Red Sandstone quern or millstones. Building stone consists of sandstone roofing tile fragments. All are of Romano-British date.

Artefactual record: statement of potential

4.33 The pottery is of primary importance as the major source of dating evidence and will provide the chronological framework for the structural and occupational elements of the site. Full recording of the pottery is considered essential in order to address questions relating to chronology, function and economic aspects of the site. Quantification and recording will allow inter and intra site comparisons. A short period-based report characterising the pottery should be prepared in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997) and Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP 1994).

4.34 A specific aim of analysis of Roman material will be to further our knowledge of local pottery traditions. Published sites with comparable Roman pottery groups are few in number, but useful comparisons may be made with certain Cirencester sites (Cooper 1998), and Wanborough, Wilts (Seagar Smith 2001). The North Wiltshire pottery industry is recognised as important, if poorly understood (SGRP 1997, 53). Increased knowledge of fabric and form ranges, together with aspects of chronology might be achieved through full recording and integration of data from the samian and other artefacts classes.

4.35 The small quantities of Roman and later brick and tile and fired clay are of little significance and require a no further detailed analysis as their presence will not add greatly to our current understanding and knowledge of these artefact types.

4.36 The Mesolithic and Early Bronze Age flint material is of some interest. However, due to the re-deposited nature of most of this material, little additional analysis is required, the aim of which would be to characterise the assemblage within the context of similar finds within the Chippenham area. A few diagnostic items may require illustration.

4.37 The coins are in poor condition and no discernable information can be gleaned from them that will enhance the nature and character of the assemblage.

4.38 The overall size of the Roman metalwork assemblage precludes further detailed analysis. Nonetheless, several pieces are of note, which will assist in the dating and interpretation of the site. The group will require a full descriptive catalogue to characterise the assemblage.

4.39 The metallurgical residues are indicative of very limited industrial activity in the early Roman period, but will add nothing to our understanding and development of the site. There is no potential for further analysis.

4.40 There is no potential for further analysis of the worked stone, which is all of Roman date.

Biological record: factual data

4.41 Bulk ecofacts have been washed, marked and quantified. Additionally 45 10 litre sub-samples were assessed. Processing was by standard flotation methods utilising meshes of 250µm and 500µm for the flot and residue respectively. Residues were sorted under a low power binocular microscope for charred plant, charcoal and artefacts.

Type	Category	Quantity
Human bone	inhumation	2
	cremation	2
Animal Bone	-	312 (frags)
Samples	environmental	45

Human Remains

4.42 The remains appear to represent a minimum number of four individuals (two inhumations and two cremations). The inhumations have been subject to fragmentation. Skeleton 407, grave W was the least well preserved, with moderate loss of integral structure and severe loss of cortex. Skeleton 662, grave V had the best quality of bone including preservation of the cortex.

Animal Bone

4.43 The quantity of animal bone recovered is small. Of the total number of fragments recovered 58% could be identified to species. The majority of the assemblage is well-preserved. Species present include cattle, sheep/goat, chicken, horse and pig in proportions comparable to most Romano-British sites.

Charred Plant Remains

4.44 The dried flots from 45 samples were assessed, all of which relate to Romano-British periods 2 to 4. The state of preservation of the remains was fair to good, and the quantity of charred material was reasonable, considering that the samples were only 10 litres in volume. Cultivars include emmer/spelt, barley, ?bread wheat, oat and pea, as well as chaff representing processing waste. Additionally, weed seeds and fruit stones (rose, sloe) provide some evidence for exploitation of hay and woodland or hedgerow resources.

Biological record: statement of potential

4.45 Due to the small sample size and poor preservation of the skeletal remains, further analysis would be unlikely to provide any further useful information. Analysis of the cremated remains might be attempted in order to provide more information about the cremation process and burial rites.

4.46 Due to the small size of the animal bone assemblage and the low frequency of specimens suitable for more detailed analysis no further work is recommended on the assemblage. However, a summary of the results from this assessment should be included in any future publication.

4.47 The potential for further analysis amongst the charred plant remains is moderately high and will require additional processing of stored samples. Charred plant remains were recovered from all three Romano-British periods, allowing for rough comparisons between the assemblages. Cereal processing waste was represented

in at least two of the periods, so some information about crop husbandry may be obtained. When fully analysed, the results from Showell Farm can be compared to other Romano-British sites in the area such as Ashton Keynes, Claydon Pike and Cirencester. Of particular interest are quantities of material from the drying oven which can be compared to assemblages from other known features of this type to shed further light on their use.

4.48 The potential for radiocarbon dating is poor at present. The samples assigned an Early Bronze Age date, which were assessed, have produced no suitable material for radiocarbon dating. Additional processing of samples assigned to this period may yield suitable material for radiocarbon dating. The chronological sequence of the Romano-British pottery is so strong that radiocarbon dating will not add to our overall interpretation and understanding of the site for this period.

5. CONSERVATION AND STORAGE

5.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Kemble, whilst post-excavation work proceeds. The site archive and artefactual collection will, with the agreement of the legal landowner, be deposited with Chippenham Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project.

5.2 Artefactual material, including pottery, worked flint, and building material is stable and requires no further treatment for long-term storage. Such material is stored by context in plastic bags within acid-free, brass wire-stitched cardboard boxes. Metal artefacts have been assessed and stabilised by a specialist conservator and are currently stored in sealed, plastic boxes with humidity controlled, in accordance with the guidelines of the Society for Museum Archaeologists (1993).

6. UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1 The original aims and objectives of the project were:

Area A

- Obtain an objective set of data on the total amount of lithic material that was present in the ploughsoil and to examine the relationship between this material and any surviving subsoil features;

Area B

- Determine the full extent of the site;
- Establish the stratigraphic sequence;
- To elucidate the nature of the other remains identified during the earlier evaluation;
- Recover a larger assemblage of dateable artefactual material to assist in the interpretation of the site;
- Establish whether the site had an earlier precursor;
- Place the site within its wider setting at either local, regional or national level;
- Establish whether the site represents an outlier to this main area of activity;

Area C

- Establish the extent of Area B within the study area.

6.2 The excavation has successfully addressed the original aims and objectives outlined above. The presence of further lithics within Area A and the recognition of the true extent of the area of Roman occupation in Area B have been successfully explored. The Area B site is of clear regional significance and warrants formal publication, including interpretation of the results and discussion of the site in its wider context.

6.3 The potential of the results of the excavation has been assessed, so the original aims and objectives can be revised to address a set of research issues arising out of the those findings to be pursued and presented in the final publication.

6.4 Essential to all further research is the construction of a framework from the site data to establish, as far as is possible, a site phasing describing the development of the whole site in terms of landuse through time. At least four phases of activity have been provisionally identified (Fig. 3). These include two Early Bronze Age roundhouses, a series of gullies, a large ditch and several enclosures, interpreted as field boundaries. The spatial and temporal relationships between these areas will be described by the site phasing. The stratigraphic data is fundamental to this process, and dating evidence will principally be provided by the pottery and metalwork. Unknown or unclear relationships may be inferred by comparison of similar site-types published in archaeological journals.

6.5 The Early Bronze Age roundhouses appear to be the earliest phase of activity on site. What is the relationship of these features to the wider surrounding landscape?

Do these structures form part of a particular use of the landscape during this period? This might be understood better by detailed study of the pottery retrieved from these features and any other find types, such as charred plant remains. The nature, character and wider extent of these features are far from clear at this stage. Further detailed analysis will enable the Bronze Age evidence to be placed amongst the broader pattern of growing evidence for Early Bronze Age activity around Chippenham, especially Showell Nurseries, which is noteworthy given the scarcity of material of this date in the southern Cotswolds compared to the chalklands further south and the Marlborough Downs to the east. From the limited evidence to date, it seems likely that the two sherds of Beaker pottery and human bone recovered from RHa are more likely to be indicative of a funerary monument, rather than domestic settlement.

6.6 The Romano-British phases of activity, periods 2 to 4, appear to identify the periphery of a Romano-British settlement. So where is this settlement? What does the recovered artefact assemblage tell us about the status of this settlement? Initially, based on provisional dating evidence from the ceramics, these phases of activity appear to have occurred over a relatively short period of time. All the finds based artefacts are early Flavian to 200 AD in date. The presence of Wiltshire and South Gaulish samian has been noted and as well as Dressel 20 amphorae. This all indicates contact with the wider Roman world. Three tegula and a single box flue tile fragment were recognised and a small amount of metalwork would indicate the settlement is reasonably high status. If we accept that the main settlement foci is elsewhere, it would appear that the provisional results of the excavations to date suggest the existence of a small managed farmstead, of which the trackways and fieldsystems form part. The early date of the settlement is of note too. This is not typical of settlement in the region to date, based on evidence from the Cotswolds. How does this fit in with the pattern of Romano-British settlement in North Wiltshire/South Cotswolds?

6.8 The purpose of the trackways between the fieldsystems is not fully understood and their function still has to be ascertained. Do they represent a field boundary or a land division? What is the relationship between trackway A and trackway B? Is the alignment important? Are they on a similar alignment to any modern day features in the landscape?

6.9 The individual components of the site, the four provisional phased elements discussed above, need to be considered in the broadest sense too, both in terms of the wider landscape and their regional and national significance. How does the site and all its components relate to the landscape? Is the settlement pattern, during the Romano-British period recognisable elsewhere within the region? Does analysis of the artefactual evidence imply any wider cultural affinities? Consideration of published data should help refine these provisional questions and interpretations outlined above.

7. PUBLICATION

7.1 The results of the excavation merit publication and are of obvious regional importance, it is proposed that a full report be published in the *Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine*, the journal of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Historical Society.

Synopsis of the Proposed Report

An Early Bronze Age and Romano-British settlement at Showell Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire 1999

by

Annette Hancocks

with contributions by Wendy J. Carruthers, H.E.M. Cool, Teresa Gilmore, Lorrain Higbee, Robert Hopkins, E.R. McSloy, Fiona Roe and Richard Young

Summary

Brief summary of the principal periods and features 200 words

Introduction

Project background, archaeological background, topography and geology 500 words

Excavation Results

Including artefacts and ecofacts as appropriate 1,500 words

Stratigraphic sequence:

Artefactual and ecofactual reports:

- The Pottery (E.R. McSloy) with Robert Hopkins
- The Cremated and Articulated Human Bone (Theresa Gilmore)
- The Charred Plant Remains (Wendy J. Carruthers)
- The Animal Bone (Lorrain Higbee)
- The Worked Stone (Fiona Roe)
- The Vessel Glass (H.E.M. Cool)
- Radiocarbon dating (Wakaito)
- The Small Finds (E.R.McSloy) 2,000 words

Discussion 1,000 words

Conclusions 200 words

Acknowledgements 100 words

Bibliography 500 words

(6,000 words)

23-25 pages

Illustrations: **7 pages**

Location of the site and other relevant sites

Phase Plan

Detail of specific features and sections

Site photographs

Pottery (35 vessels)

Small finds (9 items)

Fired clay (2 items)

TOTAL PUBLICATION ESTIMATE: **30 pages**

8. PROJECT TEAM

8.1 The post-excavation and publication programme will be under the management of **Annette Hancocks MIFA** (Post-Excavation Manager: PXM) who will co-ordinate the work of the following CA personnel:

Richard Young MIFA (Project Officer: PO):
Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparations, research and archive.

E.R. McSloy MIFA (Finds Officer: FO):
Integration of specialist work into draft result section and preparation of pottery and small finds reports.

Peter Moore (Senior Illustrator: SI):
Production of artwork.

8.2 The Finds Officer will manage contributions by the following external consultants:

Wendy J Carruthers (WC):	Charred Plant remains
Fiona Roe (FR):	Worked Stone
Esther Cameron (EC):	Conservation
Radiocarbon dating (Wakaito, NZ)	RCD

8.3 The final publication report will be edited and referred internally by CA senior project management and externally by Mark Corney.

9. TASK LIST

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION
Project Management	PXM	7 days
Stratigraphic analysis		
Preparation of stratigraphic account	PO	5 days
Assignment of generic groups		
Database revisions (phase and groups)		
Input from ceramic evidence	FO	0.5 day
Research and comparanda		
	PO	1 day
Liaison with external specialists		
Provision of strat. info and narrative	FO	1 day
Summaries of other findtypes		
Overview of coins and ceramic building material	FO	0.5 day
Pottery – Prehistoric		
Full quantification, analysis and reporting	FO	5 days

Illustration	SI	0.5 day
Pottery – Roman		
Full quantification, analysis and reporting	FO	5 days
Data entry		
Illustration (35 items)	SI	2.5 days
Fired/Burnt Clay		
Summary report on artefacts and loomweight reconstruction	FO	0.5 day
Illustration (2 items)	SI	0.5 day
Metalwork		
Conservation	EC	0.75 days
Full catalogue, minus nails; research and report preparation	FO	3 days
Illustration (9 items)	SI	2.5 days
Charred Plant Remains		
Additional processing (6 samples; 120 litres)	FA	5 days
Sorting, identification, quantification, analysis and report writing of 13 samples	WC	9 days
Radiocarbon dating		
Analysis	Wakaito	FEE
Integration of report	FO	1 day
Preparation of publication report		
Abstract and introduction	PO	0.5 day
	SI	1 day
Excavation results	PO	3 days
	SI	2 days
Compilation of specialist texts and tables	PO	1 day
	SI	1 day
Discussion, conclusions	PXM	10 days
	CE	3 days
Acknowledgments and bibliography	PO	0.5 day
Editing		
Preliminary editing	PXM	1 day
Revisions	PO	0.5 day
Second edit	CE	2 days
Submission to external referee		
Final editing	PXM	1 day
Publication		
	WAM	FEE
Proof reading	PXM	1 day
Archive		
Research archive completion	PO	0.5 day
	FO	0.5 day
Microfilm		FEE
Deposition		FEE
Publication		FEE

10. TIMETABLE

10.1 CA will produce a publication draft within one year of approval of the updated publication project design.

11. BUDGET

11.1 The following allocation of resources is proposed. All figures are exclusive of VAT. This quote assumes the publication work will be commissioned by March 2004.

Staff Costs:

CA Grade	Person	Per day	Days	Total
Chief Executive	Neil Holbrook	£405	5	£2,025
Post Excavation Manager	Annette Hancocks	£227	20	£4,540
Project Officer	Richard Young	£184	12	£2,208
Finds Officer	Ed McSloy	£169	17	£2,873
Senior Illustrator	Peter Moore	£162	10	£1,620
Finds Assistant	Tim Heaven	£80	5	£400
Total Project Salary:				**£13,666**

Non-Staff Internal Costs:

Transport	£200
NMR microfilm copy	£200
Archive deposition 20 boxes @ £15/box	£300
Total:	**£700**

External Specialist Fees:

Specialism	Consultant	Per day	Days	Total
Conservation	Esther Cameron	£28/hour plus x-ray £25	0.75	£165
Charred Plant Remains	Wendy J. Carruthers	£130	9	£1170
Radiocarbon dating (AMS)	Wakaito, NZ	4 samples @ £290/sample		£1160
Publication	*WAM*	£50/page	30	£1,500
Total:				**£3,995**

Gross Total for Project: £18,361

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APPENDIX 1: THE COARSE POTTERY BY E.R. MCSLOY WITH A CONTRIBUTION BY ROBERT HOPKINS

Pottery amounting to 5556 sherds (42.74Kg) was recovered from 222 contexts. For the purposes of assessment, the pottery was scanned by context and sorted into fabrics macroscopically or with the assistance of a low-powered binocular microscope. The pottery has been quantified by sherd count and weight per period group (Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman). Pottery data records and spot-dates have been entered on to an Access database for ease of manipulation. The pottery dates from the Early Bronze Age to the post-medieval period, although by far the largest proportion belongs to the Romano-British period.

The bulk of the pottery derives from features provisionally assigned to the Romano-British period. Most of the recovered pottery derives from linear features (74%), the ditches and gullies forming the trackways and boundaries which are the most prominent feature of the site. 13% of the pottery comes from pits, with the remaining 13% from postholes, graves, the drying oven and layers. Sherd count per context ranges between 1 and 470. There exist relatively few context groups (eight contexts or 3.5% of total) with over 100 sherds and a significant proportion of feature groups have produced fewer than 10 sherds (128 contexts or 57.7% of total). Average sherd count per context is low at 2.5.

Condition is mixed and average sherd weight (7.7g) is reasonably low. The low figure suggests that much of the assemblage is well broken up and dispersed. It also accords with the fact that the bulk of the Roman pottery derives from ditches. No complete vessels were recovered and there are few instances where vessel profiles are able to be reconstructed. Abrasion rates have not been formally recorded, however the impression is of reasonably high levels, particularly among the smaller context groups. A notable feature of the Roman assemblage is the poor survival of surfaces, and in particular of slipped or colour-coated surface treatments.

Early Bronze Age 'Beaker' Pottery
Pottery of Early Bronze Age date amounts to three sherds (56g), of which one sherd was recovered from the evaluation. This small group consists of two body sherds of Beaker fineware, and a single body/base angle sherd of Beaker coarseware.

The two fineware sherds were recovered from roundhouse (RHa), which is interpreted as a possible structure. They are of a similar though not identical, fine, hard-fired grog-tempered fabric, and represent two separate vessels. Both sherds are decorated: that from deposit 3005 in the form of horizontal square-toothed comb impressions (three lines visible); and that from deposit 420 as comb impressions arranged in a herringbone pattern.

The single coarseware sherd is recorded as having been found in topsoil. The relative softness of the fabric and the sherds unabraded condition suggest that it can only be a recent introduction to the ploughsoil. The grog-tempered fabric is notably coarser and softer in comparison with the fineware sherds, and the vessel is thicker (9mm, compared to 6-7mm). The rusticated decoration is in the form of paired splayed fingernail impressions.

Beaker pottery is characteristic of the Early Bronze Age in Britain from *c*. 2600 –1800BC. Closer dating within this range is hindered by the size of the group and the absence of full-form profiles. A date fairly late on in the sequence may be indicated by the presence of finger-rusticated vessels and also the use of combed decoration (Gibson 1990, 92-95). The presence of 'rusticated' coarseware, together with a reasonably large and 'tool-rich' lithics assemblage may be indicative of domestic activity (Gibson 1982). The use of ring-gully (RHa), from which the fineware sherds derive is unclear, although the presence of human bone from this feature may suggest a funerary monument.

Iron Age
A small quantity of probable Iron Age pottery, six sherds (27g), was recovered from four contexts. All sherds derive from contexts which have been placed provisionally in Romano-British periods 2 to 4 and thus appear at this stage to be residual finds. All sherds are hand-made, though no vessel forms could be identified. Represented fabrics consist of quartz tempered, fine flint tempered, (leached) shell tempered and grog-tempered types. The grog fabric is notably different from either the Beaker wares or the Romano-British Savernake wares, being softer and most often fired to black throughout. Dating of this material is made problematic by the absence of forms and also the dearth of local sites which have produced similar material. A Late Iron Age or Late pre-Roman Iron Age date would seem most likely, especially for the grog-tempered material. Much of the probable Iron Age pottery occurs as residual finds within Romano-British contexts. A small number of sherds, including that from inhumation burial (grave V) occur in isolation and hint at late prehistoric activity.

Romano-British
A total of 5542 sherds (42.6Kg) of Romano-British pottery was recovered from 220 contexts. The bulk of the material dates to the earlier Roman period, probably before *c*. 180/200 AD. With the exception of a single sherd of Lower Nene valley colour-coated ware from test pit 20, Late Roman pottery is conspicuous by its absence. Refinement of the dating within this earlier Roman scheme is hampered by the dearth of comparably large, quantified assemblages from the region. In many instances spot-dates are necessarily broad and all must at this

stage be regarded as provisional. Some refinement however has been attempted, utilising samian dates (provided by G. Dannell) and other date markers provided mainly by regional imports. The earliest context groups are those dated to the mid or late 1st to the early 2nd century. Such contexts are dominated by Romanising local black-sandy ware, together with Savernake ware. Small quantities of south Gaulish samian or buff-firing flagon fabrics may also occur. Context groups which are dated to the mid to late 2nd century contain a greater variety of fabrics, most often dominated by grey and oxidised wares and in some instances including Dorset Black-Burnished ware (BB1).

Evidence for pottery use occurs as a small number of vessels (all jars) which preserve traces of carbon deposits to their external surfaces, presumably from use as cooking pots. A single example of a cut-down pottery disc was also recovered.

The bulk of the Roman pottery is of likely local (north Wiltshire) manufacture and comprises sandy reduced wares, grog-tempered greywares (Savernake ware) and sandy oxidised wares. Finewares, other than the samian, are relatively sparse although it is possible that slipped wares are underestimated as the result of adverse soil conditions and the erosion of surfaces. Identified types include north Wilts colour-coated wares, Wilts imitation samian, white slipped flagons and a single sherd of ?Wilts glazed ware. The samian (see below) is chief among the continental imports present, with the only other representative being a single sherd of Baetican (southern Spanish) amphora. Regional imports include a small number of Severn Valley ware vessels (tankard forms) and a larger component of Dorset Black-Burnished ware.

Most abundant among the coarsewares is wheel-thrown black-firing sandy fabric. Closely comparable material is common in Cirencester (Fabric 5) and a north Wiltshire origin is highly probable. Fabric 5 is most plentiful in Cirencester in the period *c*. 75-100/120 AD, dropping off thereafter, but possibly continuing in use throughout the 2nd century. Everted-rim jar forms occur among the Showell Farm assemblage, which seem to imitate Dorset Black-Burnished ware jars and dishes of Antonine or later date. This probably indicates continued use of the type throughout the 2nd century. Other represented forms match those commonly encountered in the civitas capital and include necked jars, frequently with prominent shoulder and girth grooves, and platters.

Sandy grey and oxidised wares are also well represented. In common with the black sandy wares, the greywares are also broadly consistent with type fabrics 17 and 98 recorded from Cirencester (Cooper 1998). Forms consist almost entirely of necked jars, a few of which feature grooves or cordons and in one instance rusticated (applied clay) embellishment. Similarly sandy oxidised wares for the most part consist of necked jars. Tableware forms are however also present in the form of curved-sided, flanged bowls with white-painted arc decoration and tankards imitating Severn Valley ware forms. Savernake ware occurs in reasonable quantities, although it seems likely that a proportion is residual. Forms are restricted to bead-rimmed large storage jars or large necked jars. Some vessels feature scored decoration.

Examples of white or cream-slipped fabrics are relatively sparsely represented. A fine buff-firing fabric with traces of a thin cream slip, is comparable to early Roman (mid 1st to early 2nd century) flagon fabrics occurring in Cirencester and of presumed north Wiltshire origin. Two ring-necked flagons occur in this fabric. The remaining material is mostly of a coarser fabric, comparable to Cirencester fabrics 95 and 88. Two disc-rimmed flagons match fabric 95 vessels known from Cirencester and dated to the second half of the 2nd century (Rigby 1982, Nos. 58 and 95). South-west white slipped ware is sparse, however two mortaria vessels occur in the fabric, seemingly the only vessels of this form occurring on the site. Slipped, colour-coated or glazed fabrics also are poorly represented, although as previously noted this may be in part due to difficulties in identification of sherds with eroded surfaces. A single Wiltshire imitation samian vessel was recovered and this is discussed below. A single, probably local lead-glazed vessel also occurs (Anderson 1979). Colour-coated forms comprise cornice-rimmed (probably) bag-shaped beakers, probably imitating Lower Rhineland forms. At least one vessel features clay particle roughcasting. Fabrics are broadly consistent with 'North Wiltshire colour-coated wares' noted from Wanborough and elsewhere and a middle or later 2nd century date would seem appropriate (*idem.)*. A platter from ditch O with a thick red slip and a highly distinctive gold-mica rich fabric may also be a Wiltshire fabric and most likely dates to the mid 1st to early 2nd century AD.

Dorset Black-Burnished ware occurs only rarely and the range of forms is restricted. Most common are everted-rimmed jars with acute burnished lattice decoration. A small number of bead rimmed dishes and bowls, including flat-topped rim and flat-top rim with groove are also present. Dorset BB1 is unlikely to have seen common usage in this area before the Hadrianic to early Antonine period. Certain forms are indicative of use in the late 2nd to early-mid 3rd centuries. Severn Valley ware is sparse compared to BB1. Forms consist of tankards, all with grooved decoration and all likely of 2nd century date.

Wiltshire Imitation Samian by Robert Hopkins
Within gully E, 13 sherds, 11 joining were recognised. The rim and body imitate a samian Dr 30, but the base is closer a Knorr form 78 (*cf.* Bennett 1972 Fig. 29.1). The vessel exterior is clearly mould decorated, and the rilling on the interior demonstrates that it was finished on a wheel. The fabric is a hard, fine grained matrix, inclusions include small black and reddish-brown ironstone; quartz; red grog and some white flecks of (?)calcite, essentially a sandy fabric. One other inclusion was noted, small mica platelets, only visible on the surface of the interior. The

internal and external surfaces are light brown, but the core is a blue-grey colour. Very little survives of the (original greenish) glaze, but what remains is a white-light grey hue.

The decoration is divided into a repeat of at least four, probably five panels, separated by a wreath of vertical bifid leaves (ears of wheat?). The design is based on a saltire; a toothed wheel with seven, possibly eight, spokes at the centre; straight wreaths of bifid leaves extending into each corner, dividing the panel into four quadrants. In the left and right hand segments, pairs of tendrils emanate from the wheel and drop to the bottom. The upper section has a trapezoid ornament with rounded corners infilled with dots. The lower zone has a triangular motif with it's apex towards the wheel. It is clear from the variations in the repeated ornaments that these were incised freehand into the mould. The sherds date to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD.

Timby has drawn attention to the problems with dating Wiltshire samian, nearly all our sherds are derived from Antiquarian collections, or old excavations. An example from Sea Mills could either come from a Flavian, or early 2nd century context (Timby 1992, 147). It has also been noted that close comparisons with decorated samian is problematical here, the nearest comparison with the wheel can be found on a late Neronian to early Flavian Dr 29 bowl from Mainz, stamped by Bassus-Coelus (Knorr 1919 Taf.13,M); a medallion with leaves extending into the panel corners occurs on bowls by the Hadrianic to Early Antonine potter, Acaunissa (Stansfield & Simpson Pl.79,3). That said however, we cannot discount the possibility that the wheel represents a solar symbol associated with gods such as Jupiter and Sulis, both of whom are known from architectural fragments at Cirencester and Bath respectively. Henig (2003, 6) has suggested that a temple or shrine specifically dedicated to Jupiter, could be located in the South Gloucestershire/Avon area. The vessel design clarifies the decoration on bowls from Sea Mills (Bennett 1972, Fig.29, 2c); St Michael's Field, Cirencester; and a vessel in the Stourhead Collection at Devizes Museum (Anderson 1979, Fig.3, 4 & 5).

Bennett's analysis of the fabric suggests a kiln site located around Sandy Lane, west Wiltshire (Bennett 1972, 66), although the fabrics from fieldwalking collections from the nearest kiln site at Mother Anthony's Well, are clearly different (inf. Devizes Museum). The few sherd's of Wiltshire Samian identified over the last 25 years are within the zone identified by Anderson (Anderson 1979, Fig.1); although Anderson has highlighted the military connections with this type of product, we should not forget that many ''vessels'' are probably from civilian sites.

Post-medieval pottery
A very small quantity of post-medieval and earlier modern pottery (5 sherds weighing 60g) was recovered from topsoil or subsoil contexts. Fabrics are restricted to glazed earthenwares and white china all of 18th to 19th century date.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis

Despite its small size, the Early Bronze Age group is nonetheless highly significant. Of great interest is the seeming association of Beaker finewares with structural features. This and the presence of rusticated coarseware hints at domestic occupation which is exceptionally rare even in a region renowned for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. Later prehistoric activity in the area of the site sampled would appear to be restricted. Iron Age pottery occurs in very low quantities and much if not all may be residual.

The Roman assemblage by contrast is large and clearly suggestive of domestic activity in the area. Stratified Late Roman material is entirely absent and the assemblage dates, for the most part, to the late 1st to the 2nd century AD. The assemblage is heavily dominated by local reduced and oxidised wares, with very few finewares. Of note among the finewares, however are sherds of Wiltshire imitation samian. Coarseware forms seem to be limited in their range and heavily weighted to the utilitarian jars and open vessels. Specifically Roman forms such as flagons and mortaria as well as commodity containers such as amphorae are poorly represented.

The pottery is of primary importance as the major source of dating evidence and will provide the chronological framework for the structural and occupational elements of the site. Full recording of the pottery is considered an essential pre-requisite, facilitating the addressing of questions relating to chronology, function and economic aspects of the site. Accordingly a report characterising the pottery (divided into Prehistoric and Roman sections) should be prepared to meet minimum standards issued by Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997) and Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP 1994).

Prehistoric fabrics should be fully described according to PCRG guidelines. Further analysis of Romano-British material will comprise full recording by fabric type and vessel form. This will be tied into the existing local pottery type series, which is vital in order to maximise the dating potential of the group and to examine pottery supply through time. Recording by sherd family and vessel form and quantification by vessel/sherd count weight and estimated vessel equivalent will enable objective comparisons to make within this assemblage and between others. Additionally the recording of attributes such as sooting or use wear will permit investigation of vessel use and when tied to form, inform wider aspects of site use and relative status.

An important aspect of the Roman assemblage, and one which will allow some targeted research, is its seemingly narrow chronological range. A specific aim of analysis will be to further our knowledge of local pottery traditions in the early Roman period. Published sites with comparable Roman pottery groups are few in number, but useful comparisons may be made with certain Cirencester sites (Cooper 1998), and Wanborough, Wilts (Seagar Smith 2001). The North Wiltshire pottery industry is recognised as an important, if poorly understood, subject which is deserving of additional research (SGRP 1997, 53). Increased knowledge of fabric and form ranges, together with aspects of chronology might be achieved through full recording and integration of data from samian and other artefacts classes. The opportunity is presented by the predominantly Early Roman assemblage to study aspects of Romanisation, through the incidence per phase of non-native forms. The period covered by the pottery may also permit the investigation of the use of Savernake Ware, and particularly the demise of the industry at some point in the 2nd century.

Analysis should be undertaken with the aim of establishing a secure structural sequence and should take proper account of formation processes in order to avoid use of contaminated contexts which might include upper feature fills. Analysis in general will be greatly improved and speeded through use of a relational database with pottery records able to be linked to stratigraphic data and data relating to other artefact classes. The desired end product of further analysis will be a full publication report to explore chronology and changing patterns of pottery supply and use, as well as individual research issues as set out below.

Some 35 vessels will require illustration, including all Early Bronze Age vessels as well as Romano-British context or set groups and intrinsically interesting pieces.

Full Recording/Quantification (Finds Officer)	(5 days)
Report Preparation (Finds Officer)	(5 days)
Illustration (Senior Illustrator)	(3 days)

Total: 10 days (Finds Officer)
3 days (Senior Illustrator)

APPENDIX 2: THE SAMIAN WARE BY E.R. MCSLOY WITH IDENTIFICATIONS BY GEOFF DANNELL

A total of 62 sherds (617g) of Gaulish samian, representing at least 57 vessels, were recovered. Samian pottery was scanned for purposes of dating and subsequently fully quantified. The samian accounts for approximately 1.1% of Roman pottery recovered (according to sherd count). Unusually, Southern Gaulish vessels predominate (63% according to vessel count) with the remainder all deriving from Central Gaulish sources.

Condition is generally good or fair and average sherd weight (10g) is somewhat higher than the equivalent figure for Roman coarsewares (see above). The majority (65%) of vessel sherds could be identified to form. Of the remainder three can be assigned to vessel class and 17 chips are unassignable. Few contexts contained more than one or two vessel. Ditch L is exceptional in producing six vessels, including a Drag. 27 and a Drag. 18/31 both reconstructable to full profile. The samian ranges in date from the Flavian period to the Late Antonine, with the bulk of material probably from the period *c*. 70-100 AD.

Of the Southern Gaulish Samian 36 vessels are represented, equivalent to 63% of the group. Much of this material occurs with 2nd century or later dated material and can therefore be considered residual or as survivals in use. The bulk of, and quite possibly all of the South Gaulish samian probably comes from La Graufesenque. Forms, are dominated by platters and cups. No maker-stamped or (mould) decorated vessels were recovered. Two South Gaulish vessels exhibit repair holes, intended for lead rivets.

No certain pre-Flavian vessels have been identified and the bulk of material almost certainly dates to the period *c*. 70 -100 AD. This pattern accords with preliminary assessment of the coarsewares which included very little in the way of 'Belgic' type grog-tempered material and no imported Gallo-Belgic material or British imitations. The relative abundance of South Gaulish samian, and more especially its proportionally strong showing as compared to Central Gaulish material, is significant and would appear to be somewhat unusual in the locality. The range of forms is quite high, particularly given the size of the assemblage (Willis 1997, 42).

Although some caution is required before any notions of status could be inferred from what is a modest and dispersed assemblage, the imbalance requires some explanation. The pattern may substantially be a product of chronology and the falling off of activity into the late 2nd century. The proximity of Cirencester, a major marketing centre, may also be a factor, with South Gaulish samian widely available and easily accessible.

A total of 21 Central Gaulish samian vessels were recorded. Products from Les Martres-de-Veyre do not occur and this is consistent with the well attested decline in samian importation in the Trajanic to Hadrianic period. The bulk of material (mostly Lezoux products) almost certainly dates to the early to middle Antonine period. The preponderance of plain forms, mostly open forms and cups, seen with the Southern Gaulish group is repeated. Decorated forms are restricted to a single chip of a Drag. 37 bowl. Of some significance is the proportionally high occurrence of Drag. 18/31 dishes, forms which ceased production around 160 AD. Later Antonine forms are generally rare, restricted to three vessels (Drag. 38 and 31R), two of which are unstratified.

Statement of potential and proposals for further analysis and publication

The samian pottery represents a small but interesting assemblage which has potential to address issues relating to chronology and status. The quantity (1.1% of the assemblage) is unexceptional, however the main interest lies in the relative abundance of Flavian material and overall sparseness of material of later Antonine date. Although comparanda are few and far between, this pattern would appear to be unusual for small rural sites in the area (and certainly beyond). The patterning most likely relates to chronology and may indicate abandonment of the site before the end of the 2nd century AD.

Little additional analysis of the samian is required. No potters stamps were recovered and no pieces require illustration. The interests of the site and the pottery assemblage are probably best served by considering the samian together with the rest of the Roman pottery. Costs for analysis and report writing are included in the pottery section.

APPENDIX 3: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL BY E.R. MCSLOY

Small quantities of Roman tile, six fragments, weighing 1118g were recovered from five contexts. Three tegula and a single box flue tile fragments are identifiable, the remainder being non-diagnostic flat fragments. All fragments are of a similar, fairly soft, pale orange fabric with common red iron oxide and rare quartz and calcareous inclusions. Although roof and flue tile is present, the quantities are too small for the presence in the near vicinity of a substantial structure to be assumed.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

The ceramic building material is considered to be of little significance and no further work is recommended. The report as presented here is sufficient for the purposes of publication.

APPENDIX 4: FIRED OR BURNT CLAY BY E.R. MCSLOY

Fired clay sling missiles were recovered from two features one within Field F and one from ditch K. Similar items, usually presumed to be for the hunting of game, are known from Later Iron Age contexts including Danebury and Glastonbury Lake Village (Bulleid and Grey 1917) and from earlier Romano-British contexts elsewhere (McSloy forthcoming).

Two fired clay objects of uncertain function were recovered from mid to late 2nd century dated ditch S. Both are incomplete. One object, consisting of eight joining fragments, is of roughly formed bar-like form. This object is of a soft, pale brown fabric, with abundant chalk-like inclusions and frequent voids from vegetable tempering. The second item, which occurs as a finer, inclusionless fabric, is of triangular section. Although nether item retains traces of suspension holes, both items may have served as weights of either triangular/pyramidal form or of the more rarely known tall rectangular form (Foster 1986, No. 689).

Further quantities of fired or burnt clay (512 fragments, weighing 5622g), were recovered from 44 contexts. The bulk of the miscellaneous material is dateable to the earlier Roman period through association with pottery; with the remainder coming from undated (but probably Romano-British) contexts. Fabric variations occur, although most fragments appear to be of a similar fairly soft reddish brown fabric with few coarse inclusions and infrequent voids from burnt out vegetable tempering. Many fragments preserve roughly smoothed surfaces, although function is unclear. The abundance of such material and its dispersed nature suggests that it is not accidentally burnt structural daub and perhaps most likely represents the fragmented remains of ovens or other pyrotechnic installations.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

The fired clay is of some significance, providing evidence for activities of hunting and weaving in the area, as well at hinting at the use of ovens or other similar structures. Little additional analysis work is necessary, however a summary report should be prepared. In addition, one sling missile and one bar-like loomweight should be drawn. In the case of the latter this will necessitate some reassembly of joining fragments.

Report Preparation and reconstruction of loomweight	0.5 day
Illustration	0.5 day

Total: 0.5 day (Finds Officer)
0.5 day (Senior Illustrator)

APPENDIX 5: THE COINS BY E.R. MCSLOY

A total of six coins, all of copper alloy were recovered. All were x-rayed to assist in identification, but their condition is extremely poor and only three could be identified. Only one coin comes from a stratified feature, with the remainder deriving from subsoil horizons or being unstratified. Of the unidentified coins one may be an earlier Roman AS or dupondius, one is almost certainly another late Roman Bronze and one a second post-medieval halfpenny.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

There is no potential for further analysis of the coins. X-rays of unidentified coins indicate that no detail survives and cleaning is unlikely to be lead to identification. No further work is recommended. The report as presented here is sufficient for the purposes of publication.

APPENDIX 6: THE METALWORK BY E.R. MCSLOY (WITH COMMENTS ON CONDITION/CONSERVATION BY ESTHER CAMERON)

A total of 65 items of iron, copper alloy and lead alloy were recovered from 33 contexts. There are 35 objects of iron, 23 of copper alloy and seven of lead. Two items, a Roman copper-alloy vessel fragment (Sf. 48) and a post-medieval buckle frame, feature white-metal plating. A single copper alloy brooch features enamelled decoration.

All metal objects were examined in the conservation laboratory and their condition assessed. Assessment has included x-radiography of all items (X-ray plates 1160 to 1163). The extent of corrosion is very variable: some items are extensively corroded, some are fragmented, and most have soil adhering.

The bulk of the assemblage dates to the Roman period with a number of post-medieval and modern items. The bulk of the Roman objects come from stratified deposits, mainly ditch fills. Post-medieval and modern objects derive in their entirety from subsoil and topsoil horizons. The assemblage taken as a whole indicates significant activity in the 1st and 2nd century AD. There is no specifically 3rd or 4th century material, though many of the objects cannot be closely dated. Items of personal adornment/dress, which include brooches and finger rings are well represented and almost certainly represent casual losses. Other functional classes (disregarding the nails) are very poorly represented.

The majority of items can be dated only very broadly or not at all. However, Roman dress or personal items, including brooches, finger rings and cosmetic sets, present more specific dating evidence. There are no certain pre-conquest items of metalwork present, however brooches of Nauheim derivative (Sf. 7) and a two-piece Colchester derivative (Sf. 41) are of likely pre-Flavian date. Of the remaining brooches which are complete enough for identification, there is a Polden Hill form (Sf. 54) and a trumpet-headed type (Sf. 4). Both date to the latter part of the 1st or early 2nd century, whilst an enamelled knee brooch is more broadly dateable to the 2nd century. The remaining brooch fragments, including a hinged iron example from a pit within Field B, are all earlier Roman types dateable to before *c*. 200 AD.

A small number of other items provide some dating information: cosmetic grinder (mortar) Sf. 18 belongs to a class of object with possible pre-conquest ancestry, with the majority being of mid 1st to 2nd century date; a finger ring with polygonal hoop and flat bezel with inscribed design is most likely of 2nd century date; and vessel fragment, Sf. 48, probably also dates to the early Roman period. Few iron nails are sufficiently complete for full identification. Those that are classifiable, are almost certainly Roman and of Manning's type 1B (square sectioned shank and flattened head). The remaining dateable objects are all of the post-medieval or modern

periods and most represent metal-detected finds from topsoil/subsoil horizons. Post-medieval items include a number of plain rectangular and double framed buckles of both iron and copper alloy as well as a lead cloth seal, button fragments and a probable (?brass) pocket watch case.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

The overall size of the Roman assemblage is too small to allow for additional analysis (spatial analysis included) for the purposes of further investigating function or status. The metalwork, though restricted in size and range, nonetheless includes a number of notable items, which will assist in the dating and interpretation of the site. Accordingly the group will however require basic archiving to include full catalogue descriptions of items other than nails.

A number of objects should be illustrated, including: seven brooches (six of copper-alloy and one of iron); the cosmetic set Sf. 18; vessel fragment Sf. 48 Some items will require investigative conservation and cleaning to clarify constructional details and facilitate illustration.

Report Preparation/additional research:	3 days
Conservation:	2 days
Illustration:	2.5 days

Total: 3 days (Finds Officer)
2.5 days (Senior Illustrator)
2 days (Appointed conservator-approx rate £26 per hour)

APPENDIX 7: THE METALLURGICAL RESIDUES BY E.R. MCSLOY

A very small quantity of metallurgical residues (208g) was recovered from three contexts assigned to Period 2. This material would appear to be of very similar composition, characteristically dense with low vesicularity. A fragment from a gully within trackway A features a smooth, convex underside and is presumed to represent a fragmentary smithing heath bottom.

The metallurgical residues represent somewhat restricted evidence for ferrous metalworking activity, most likely in the form of smithing. The extremely small amount material and the absence of hammerscale from soil samples indicated that such activity was small-scale or conducted well away from the area of excavations. Of note is that the recovered slag comes from gullies or ditches belonging to Period 2 and was entirely absent from the more extensive Period 4 features.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

The metallurgical residues are indicative of very limited industrial activity in the early Roman period. There is no potential for further analysis and the report as presented here is sufficient for the purposes of publication.

APPENDIX 8: THE GLASS BY H.E.M. COOL

All four of the fragments of glass are of Roman date. The mould blown fragment no. 1 can be dated to the third quarter of the 1st century AD. It probably came from a cylindrical beaker. Similar rows of pellets between bordering ribs occur on a blue/green beaker from the Neronian site at Kingsholm (Price and Cool 1985, 46 no. 18). On that beaker one of the pellet rows is bordered by a zone of lattice decoration and the tip of a V-shaped moulding seen on no. 1 might hint that a similar decoration was present on this vessel as well. This is an unusual discovery because 1st century mould blown vessels are not normally found on rural sites.

The form of the vessel 2, no. 2 came from cannot be identified but the colour and ribbed decoration would be consistent with a 1st to mid 2nd century date as a variety of common forms of that date have this combination of features (see for example Price and Cottam, 78, 137, 152).

There is also one fragment (no. 3) from a blue/green prismatic bottle, a very common 1st to mid 3rd century form (Price and Cottam 1998, 194-9), frequently found on rural sites. The blue/green body fragment no. 4 cannot be more closely dated than to the 1st to 3rd century.

Catalogue

1 Body fragment. Deep blue; mould blown. Straight side. Moulded decoration consists of a band of circular pellets (three extant) between two horizontal ribs; the tip of a V-shaped moulding remains beyond one of the ribs. Dimensions 23mm x 17mm, wall thickness 1.5mm. Sf. 9; gully F

2 Body fragment. Light green. Two ribs. Dimensions 16mm x 14mm, wall thickness 2mm. Ditch S

3 Prismatic bottle; body fragment. Blue/green. Test Pit 26

4 Body fragment; blue/green.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

There is no potential for further analysis and the report as presented here is sufficient for the purposes of publication.

APPENDIX 9: THE WORKED STONE BY FIONA ROE

All the worked stone from Showell Farm appears to be Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean. There are two rotary quern fragments and one possible millstone fragment from the same feature, Well A, SF's 63, 64 & 65), and these have been identified as being made from Upper Old Red Sandstone quartz conglomerate or sandstone. Roofing tile fragments from ditch K and two fragments from roundhouse A are from the Lower Old Red Sandstone Brownstones.

Rotary querns and millstones made from Upper Old Red Sandstone from the Forest of Dean are common on Roman sites in Gloucestershire. This site in Wiltshire lies south of the main distribution area, and fills a gap in the record, as known at present. Showell Farm is situated near the river Avon, which may have provided a convenient means of transport for the querns and possible millstone. Thus Forest of Dean stone seems to have been preferred, although a source of Old Red Sandstone at Beacon Hill on the Mendips is less distant. Roman sites around Devizes seem more often to have querns of Mendip Old Red Sandstone. At Wanborough, just south of Swindon, rotary querns of Late Iron Age type were made from Mendip Old Red Sandstone, while those of the Roman disc type were mainly made from Forest of Dean Old Red Sandstone.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

There is no potential for further analysis and the report as presented here is sufficient for the purposes of publication. To verify a suspected Forest of Dean source, it is also recommended that the three stone objects from Well A should be checked against hand specimens of Old Red Sandstone.

APPENDIX 10: THE HUMAN REMAINS BY TERESA GILMORE

An assessment of the skeletons from excavation at Showell Farm was undertaken to establish the minimum number of individuals, ages, sexes and to record any obvious pathologies. The observations recorded are provisional and subject to change if and when full analysis is undertaken.

Sex was only determined on adult remains using standard criteria (Bass, 1987; Brothwell, 1981; Phenice, 1967; Buikstra & Ubelaker, 1994). Adult age was determined using a variety of methods depending on skeletal parts present: dental eruption and development (Van Beek, 1983), dental attrition (Brothwell, 1981), cranial suture closure (Meindle & Lovejoy, 1985). Pathology was diagnosed using criteria in Aufderheide & Rodriguez-Martin (1998).

The human remains submitted for analysis consisted of two inhumations and four presumed cremation deposits (two of the submitted burnt bone deposits, were subsequently identified as non-human and have been omitted from this assessment). The two inhumations have been subject to fragmentation. The skeleton from grave W; was the least well preserved, with moderate loss of integral structure and severe loss of cortex. The skeleton from grave V had the best quality of bone including preservation of the cortex.

Three adults are represented, one probable Male and two unknown. Pathological changes could only be noted from the individual in grave V. No diagnosis of conditions leading to pathological changes was undertaken at this level of analysis.

Cremated bone was weighed and measured from five environmental samples, probably representing two deposits. The state of oxidation and hence the quality of cremation varies from white/grey fragments to black/grey fragments.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis

The remains appear to represent a minimum number of five individuals (two inhumations, two cremations and a single isolated heel bone). The heel bone is of interest as it derives from a roundhouse A, phased to the Early Bronze Age, and raises the possibility of a disturbed funerary deposit. Two of the cremation burials appear to have no human bone present and are therefore of minimal interest. The only pathology present was calculus present on lingual and buccal surfaces of the loose dentition of grave V with one tooth exhibiting a case of dental caries along the gum line on the distal surface.

Due to the small sample size and poor preservation of the skeletal remains, further analysis would not provide any further useful information. The cremated remains could potentially be worthy of further study by a cremation specialist to provide more information about the cremation process and burial rites. Secure dating could be useful to confirm the relationships of the human remains with the main site plan.

There is no potential for further analysis and the report as presented here is sufficient for the purposes of publication.

APPENDIX 11: THE ANIMAL BONE BY LORRAIN HIGBEE

A small assemblage of bone was recovered from the site during the normal course of hand-excavation and from the wet-sieving of bulk soil samples. The total quantity is 312 fragments the majority of which are from deposits assigned the Romano-British period 4.

Of the total number of fragments recovered 181 (or 58%) could be identified to species, a small proportion of which are complete enough to provide more detailed information (i.e. age and mensural data). The majority of the remaining 131 fragments are either diagnostic non-countable bones or bones which could only be assigned to a general size category (e.g. “cattle-sized”); a small proportion are undiagnostic fragments greater than 1cm (anything smaller was not counted). The following discussion will briefly describe the assemblage by period.

Ditch N is the only period 1 deposit to yield animal bone, a fragment of radius shaft from a large mammal (i.e. cattle-sized).

The period 2 assemblage comes from 43 separate contexts but only one or two fragments were recovered from most deposits. Sheep/goat bones are common with smaller quantities of the other two main livestock species. Sheep/goat is represented mostly by waste elements especially mandibles and loose teeth. One fragment each of dog, horse and chicken bone were also identified.

Animal bone was recovered from 11 contexts assigned to period 3 the assemblage is small and sheep/goat bones predominate most of which are from field F. Lower limb bones (i.e. metacarpi, metatarsi and phalanges) and cranial fragments are common suggesting that the remains are mostly waste elements. Two horse bones were identified they include a loose tooth and complete radius.

The period 4 assemblage is the largest stratified collection from the site and was recovered from 81 separate contexts. Unlike previous periods cattle bones are slightly more common than sheep bones and the proportion of horse bones is relatively high in comparison to other livestock species.

Cattle mandibles are relatively common and butchery evidence noted on scapulae in the assemblage is characteristically Roman. The most obvious example is a scapula from evaluation trench 1, Area C, which bears butchery marks consistent with processing the joint to produce cured (or salt) beef. Such marks include trimming around the glenoid cavity, removal of the spina and nick marks along the margo thoracalis. This pattern of butchery has been recorded on scapulae from a number of Romano-British assemblage (Maltby, 1985 and 1989) and probably represents brined or cold-smoked joints (Dobney et al, 1995: Dobney, 2001).

Horse bones are fairly common in the assemblage and most are isolated anatomical elements scattered across the site. Loose teeth and pelvises are common and both immature and adult individuals are represented. One of the adult horse bones, a metatarsal from ditch S is complete and gave an estimated shoulder height of *c.*12 hands (lateral length measurement following Von den Driesch, 1976 converted using Kiesewalter’s factors in Von den Driesch and Boessneck, 1974).

Sheep/or goat is represented mostly by mandible fragments and loose teeth. Age data based upon tooth eruption and wear suggests that most sheep were culled as adult individuals (age category G following Payne, 1973; 1987

and 1988). Less common species include pig, dog, chicken, amphibian and rodent (vole). All microfauna (i.e. amphibian and rodent) bones were recovered from sample residues and probably represent natural fatalities.

The majority of the assemblage is well-preserved, only a small number of bones were recorded as poorly preserved and these tended to be undiagnostic fragments or fragments which could only be identified to general size categories. Only a small proportion of bones were recorded with canid gnaw marks and this did not generally affect identification. Charred and calcined bones were also recovered but were generally too fragmented to identify.

The entire assemblage was subjected to assessment by rapidly scanning and the following information recorded; species, skeletal element, age related features, completeness for biometric analysis, as well as more general observations on butchery, taphonomy and pathology. This information was entered into a database and is available in the site archive. For a full description of the methods considered in the assessment of this assemblage the reader is referred to Davis (1992).

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis

Due to the small size of the assemblage and the low frequency of specimens suitable for more detailed analysis no further work is recommended on the assemblage. However, a summary of the results from this assessment should be included in any future publication.

APPENDIX 12: THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS BY WENDY J. CARRUTHERS

Excavations were carried out by Cotswold Archaeology at Showell Farm, Chippenham, Wiltshire during 1999. Features dating from the Bronze Age to the Romano-British period were revealed. Environmental soil samples (10 litres in volume) were taken from a range of features, and these were processed by Cotswold Archaeology staff. A 250µ mesh was used to recover the flot and a 1mm mesh was used to retain the residue.

The dried flots from 45 samples were sent to the author for assessment. The flots were rapidly scanned under a dissecting microscope until their overall character and state of preservation had been assessed. Charred items were not sorted or counted, but a rough frequency rating was given to the main components. The potential for further analysis for each sample was coded as described below.

Bulk environmental samples were taken for the purposes of confirming the presence of biological remains and gauging their state of preservation in order to assess the potential for analysis towards reconstructing former economies and environments. The results of this assessment are based predominantly on sub-samples of 10 litre size. In addition, samples recovered from cremations (30 litre size) were fully processed. Recommendations are also made for the processing of additional stored material.

Assessment of 'potential' was based on the following criteria, with samples rated A-D. It should be noted that factors such as changes in phasing and context information could affect the rating. Also, if particular archaeological questions need to be answered about certain features/deposits, it could be worthwhile including some samples in category C. It should be noted that results from the C and D samples may still be used in the final report, grouped with the A and B results.

It should also be noted that, although recommendations have been made that more soil should be processed from some deposits in the hope that assemblage sizes will be increased, quadrupling the sample size will not necessarily quadruple the assemblage size. The distribution of charred plant remains within deposits is a very unpredictable and often patchy phenomenon.

A = very good preservation, frequent remains or particularly interesting taxa. Worth including in the full analysis on archaeobotanical merit alone.
B = remains may not be particularly numerous or well preserved, but worth including if grouped with other samples from the same phase.
C = only a few remains or poor preservation. Only worth including if contexts of particular interest.
D = very few or no remains, flot fully sorted at assessment stage. No further potential.

All of the 45 flots assessed were from Romano-British contexts, from periods 2 to 4 (late 1st to 2nd century AD). The remaining two derived from a period 1 (Bronze Age), roundhouse A.

Period 1
The two Bronze Age samples produced very little charred material, but it did include four barley grains and a fragment of sloe stone. More detailed work on the barley grains may help to determine whether they were hulled

or naked, as both varieties were being grown at the time and may produce further material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Period 2
Of the 16 samples from period 2, 13 produced small quantities of charred plant remains, including emmer/spelt and barley grain, chaff and weed seeds. In most cases only a few remains were present, and no further work is required. However, the results can be included in the final report. Three samples are worth sorting and analysing; one because it was silty and difficult to scan (s. 34), another because it produced several barley grains and this is fairly unusual for the period (s. 47) and the third because it produced a well-preserved deposit of spelt crop processing waste (s. 49).

The range of features includes pits, cremations, ditches, a beamslot and a gully. No obvious differences between features can be seen at this stage, although some of the cremations produced larger quantities of charcoal, as might be expected. It could be worth sending the charcoal to a specialist for analysis, including the large amount found in beamslot 552 (Field F), which could represent a timber burnt *in situ*. Unfortunately the period 4 cremations did not contain identifiable-sized charcoal (unless hand-picked samples were also taken), so no comparisons through time can be made.

Period 3
Only three samples from this period were examined, the upper fill of posthole 270 (s. 4), the fill of a ditch K (s. 48) and the fill of pit 251 (s. 3). All derived from Field F. Sample 4 produced a good assemblage (graded A) of crop processing waste, including frequent emmer/spelt chaff fragments, a few grains and weed seeds. Several large, flaky fragments of charcoal were present, perhaps as remnants of the post. The other two samples contained no, or very few, remains.

Period 4
24 samples from this period were assessed, nine of which are recommended for further analysis (grades A and B). Part of the reason for the increased recovery of charred plant remains from this period is the fact that six of the fruitful samples came from two corn driers, F525 and F324. It will be useful to examine these samples in detail to see whether they represent accidentally burnt crops or chaff used to fuel the ovens. The other three, less productive but grade B samples were from ditches S and U, and one of the cremations in Field C (675). It is interesting to see that a rose seed was among the seeds from the cremation, along with a few emmer/spelt grains, so more information about the location of this sample (s.37) in relation to the others (s.35, 36, 38) would be useful to help determine whether this is an accidental or deliberate deposition. One of the ditch samples, s. 45, produced several barley grains and chaff fragments, and some seeds from damp meadow species. This could represent burnt fodder, so more detailed studies of the distribution of these samples could identify activity areas.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis

The state of preservation of the remains was fair to good, and the quantity of charred material was reasonable, considering that most of the samples were only 10 litres in volume. As remains were recovered from all three Romano-British periods, it should be possible to make rough comparisons between the assemblages. Cereal processing waste was represented in all three periods, so some information about crop husbandry may be obtained. The Bronze Age samples produced only a little information, but because environmental evidence from this period is scarce, it will be useful to add the results to the archaeobotanical record.

None of the crop plants or weed seeds were unusual for the period. Spelt is often found to be the dominant crop on RB sites, with differing amounts of bread-type wheat, barley and emmer. When fully analysed, the results from Showell Farm can be compared to other RB sites in the area such as Ashton Keynes, Claydon Pike and Cirencester. There is some evidence in the Showell samples for the use of other resources such as hay and hedgerow fruits (rose, sloe) which full analysis will elucidate.

It is recommended that additional stored material from our soil samples rated ‘B’ and two of those rated D (deemed to be of exceptional contextual interest), should be processed.

Costing

Sorting, identification, quantification, analysis and report writing for all 13 A and B samples.	9 days
Additional processing of stored material (120 litres)	5 days

Total: 9 days (Wendy J. Carruthers)
5 days (Finds Assistant)

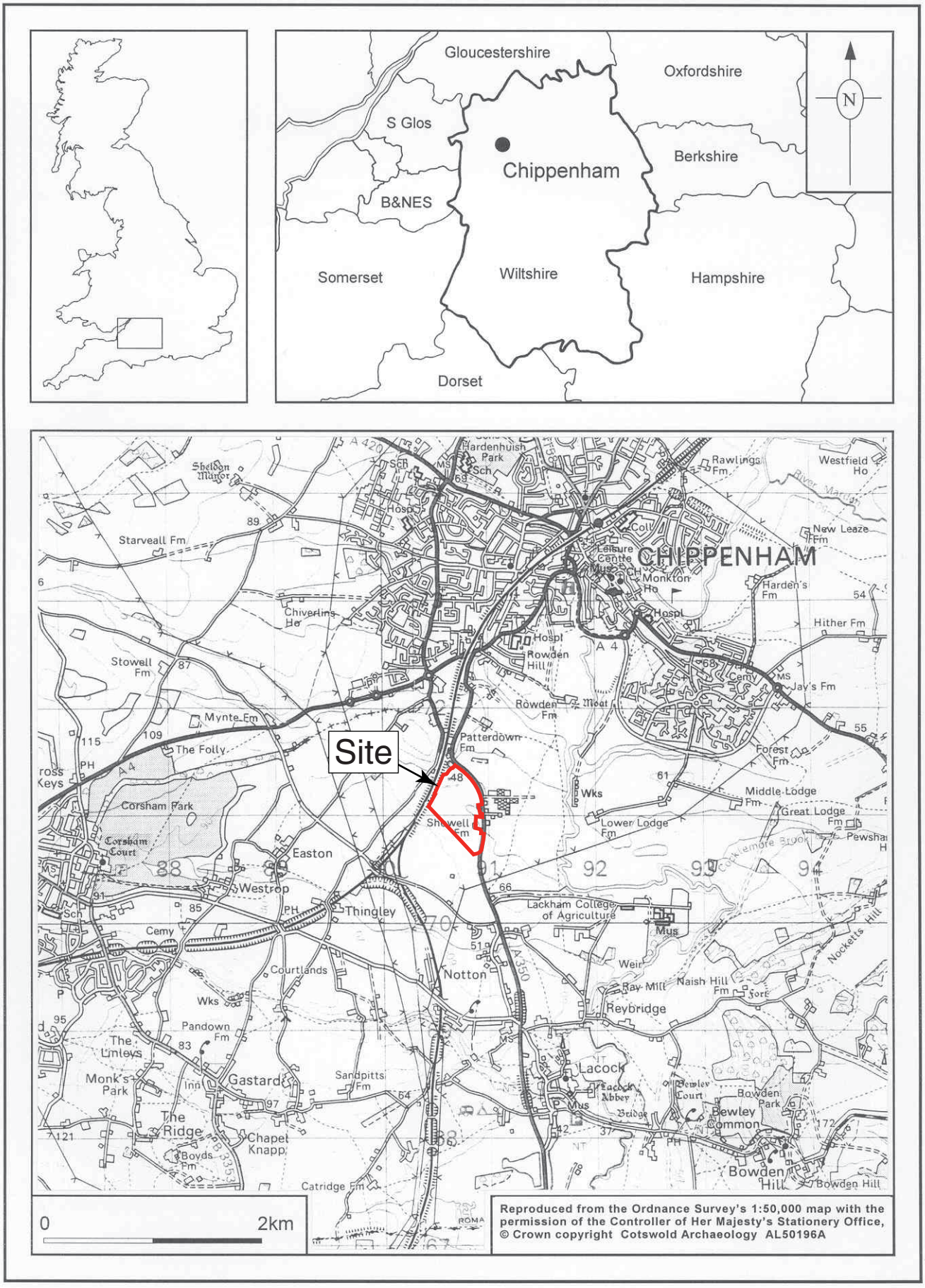

Fig. 1 Site location plan

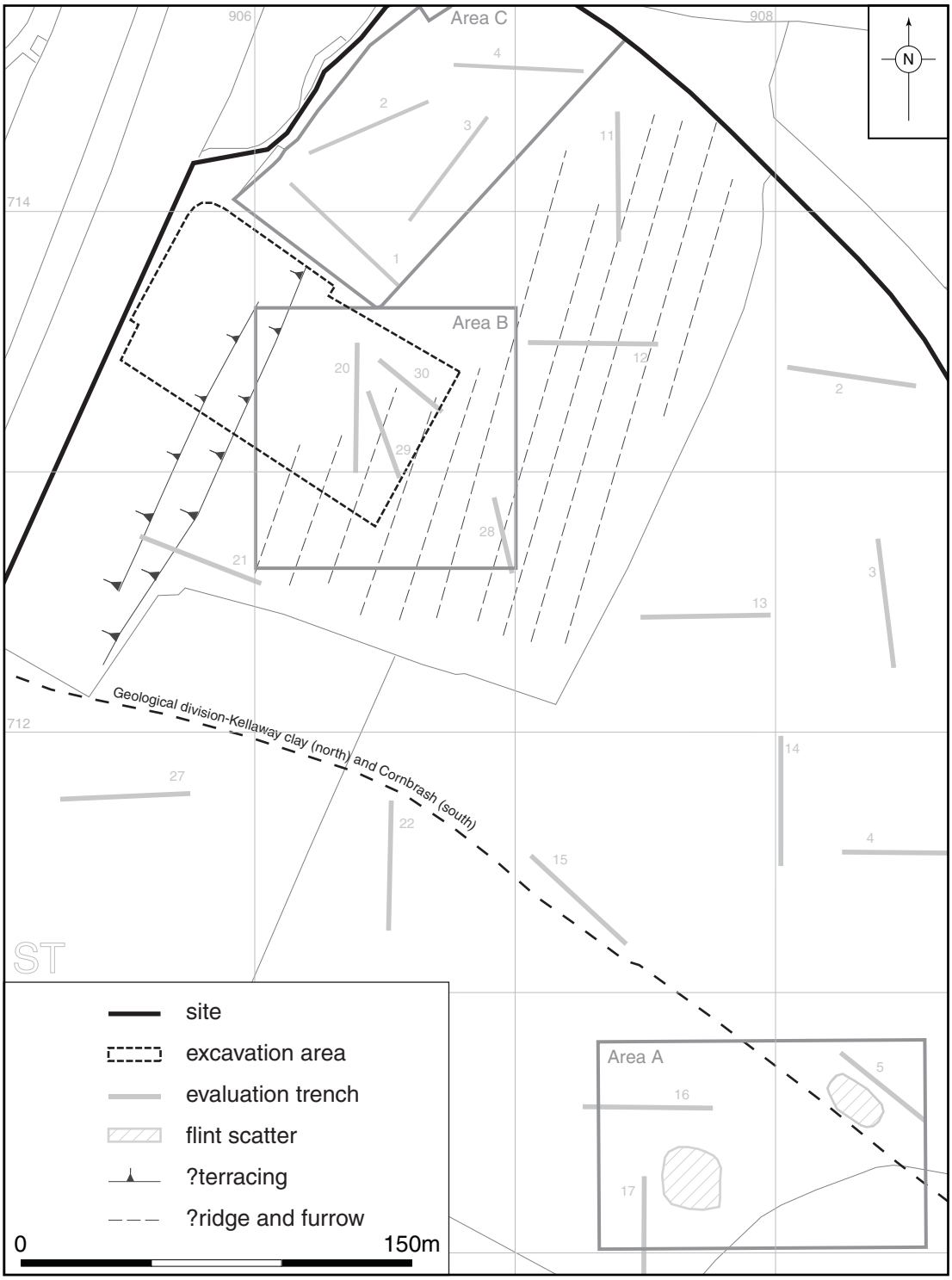

Fig. 2 The site, showing phase areas, cropmarks, evaluation trenches and excavation area (1:2500)

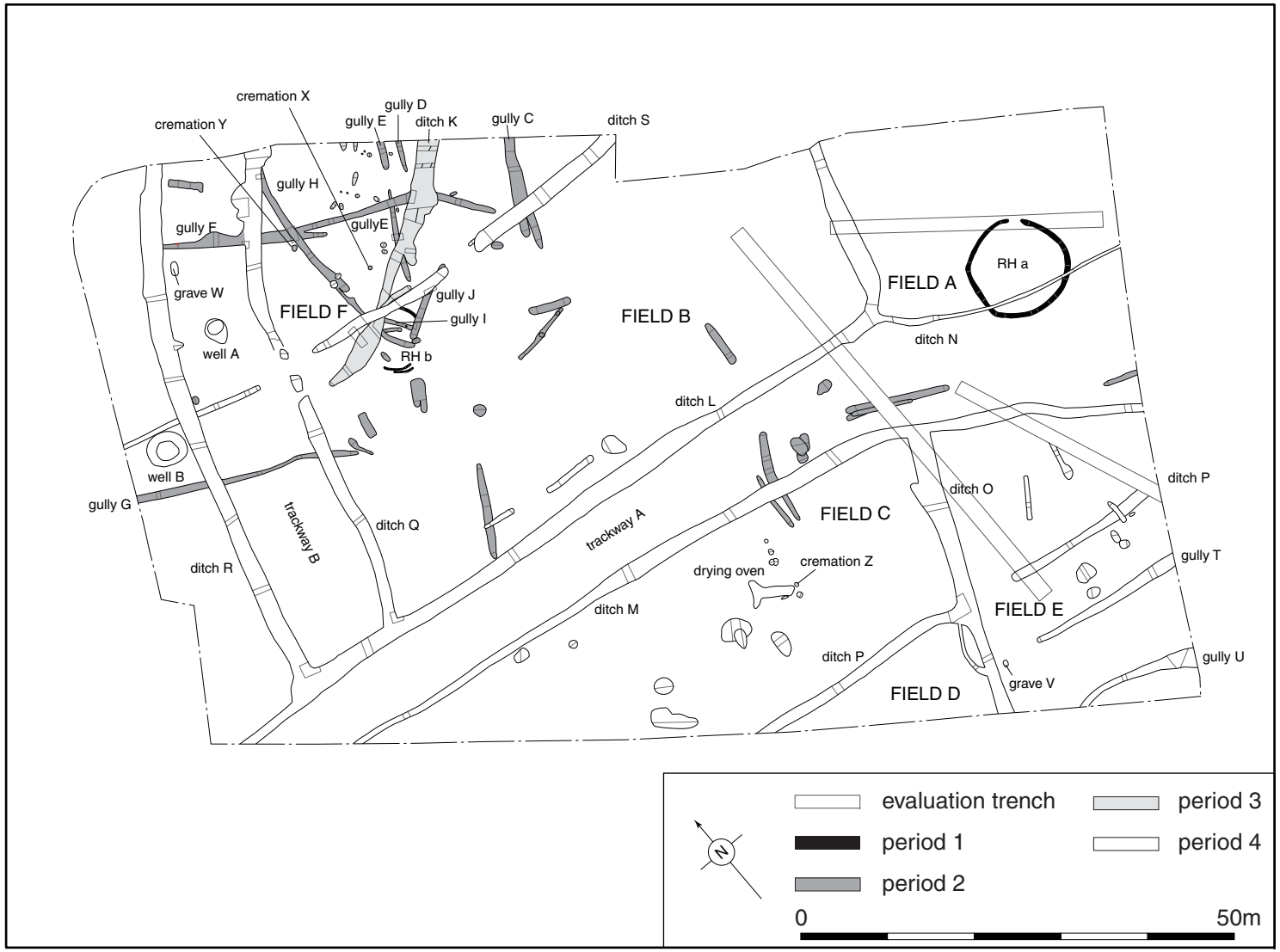

Fig. 3 Excavation, Area B (1:750)