

LAND SOUTH OF NEW TERRACE
STAVERTON
TROWBRIDGE
WILTSHIRE

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT
AND
UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

CA PROJECT: 9075
CA REPORT: 09100

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land south of New Terrace
Location:	Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
NGR:	ST 8580 6035
Type:	Archaeological evaluation and excavation
Dates:	January 2002 (evaluation) September 2004 (evaluation) October-November 2007 (excavation)
Location of archive:	Trowbridge Museum
Accession Number:	To be allocated on deposition
Site Codes:	SLR 02, SLR 04, SLR 07

A programme of archaeological investigation, comprising evaluation trenching in January 2002 and September 2004 and archaeological excavation in October and November 2007, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology at the request of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd. In compliance with an approved WSI (CA 2007) the proposed development area, approximately 1.3ha in size, was examined.

Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity was represented by an isolated pit within the northern part of the site, and by a shallow ditch set parallel with a north-west/south-east-aligned palaeochannel which crossed through the southern part of the site. A Middle Bronze Age pit was also recorded. Within the south-western and south-eastern parts of the site, immediately north-east of a palaeochannel that bi-sectioned the site were concentrations of pits, ditches, postholes, and stakeholes appear to include settlement remains of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age date.

A series of north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west-aligned ditches, associated with pottery of 1st to 2nd-century date, represent elements of an Early Roman field system set parallel with the, by then, silted palaeochannel. Curvilinear gullies, and circular arrangements of postholes, appear to identify locations of several Early Roman round houses within the northern part of the site.

Identified Late Roman features included a series of ditches cut along the length of the former palaeochannel, three charcoal-rich pits possibly representing flues for ovens, kilns or other industrial features, and four human burials. Towards the end of the Roman period parts of the site were overlain by artefact-rich dumps of soil, and a series of rubble spreads lain across the southern boundary ditches appear to denote former causeways or bridging points in the area of the former palaeochannel. Architectural fragments recovered from these rubble spreads suggest the presence of a high status Roman building in the site vicinity.

Anglo-Saxon activity is attested from a shallow, sub-rounded, depression in the south-eastern part of the site which yielded a single sherd of 5th to 7th century pottery. A concentration of medieval features, including layers, gullies, a pit and posthole in the south-eastern part of the site were associated with pottery of 13th to 14th-century date.

This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from 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 During October and November 2007 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation on land south of New Terrace, Staverton, Wiltshire, (centred on NGR: ST 8580 6035; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Persimmon Homes (Wessex) Ltd following approval of a planning application for residential development (Appeal Decision ref. APP/F3925/A/05/1190962) and for construction of a link road between New Terrace and Marina Drive (ref. 06/01036/FUL) passing through the proposed development area.

1.2 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a brief for archaeological recording prepared by Sue Farr, Assistant Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council (WC), formerly Wiltshire County Council (WCC 2005), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2007) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Sue Farr. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Sue Farr, including site visits on 8th October, 7th November and 15th November 2007.

Location

1.3 The site is situated on the north-western edge of the village of Staverton to the north-west of Trowbridge, Wiltshire. The northern end of the site occupies a relatively flat crest at approximately 42m OD with ground level then falling gently to approximately 38m OD to the south-east. The site is bounded to the north-east by the B3105 New Terrace road and to the south-west by an open field, with the remainder of the site bounded by existing residential development (Fig. 2). Approximately 90m to the north-west of the site, the ground slopes relatively steeply downwards to the floodplain of the River Avon. One (or possibly two) fluvial terraces are visible in this slope.

1.4

Archaeological background

1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises in part from the presence of several nearby sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), including a ring ditch

(SMR Ref. ST85NE630) and a rectangular enclosure (SMR Ref. ST86SE602). In addition, cartographic sources identify that part of the site was formerly known as 'Blacklands', a name often synonymous with Roman and medieval activity.

- 1.7 The presence of archaeological deposits within the site was confirmed by trial trenching by CA (formerly Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT)) in January 2002 on the line of a proposed new link road between New Terrace and Marina Drive. Features dating from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Late Roman and post-medieval and modern periods were identified within six evaluation trenches, three of which lay within the area of proposed residential development (CAT 2002; Fig. 2). A subsequent geophysical survey identified two possible enclosures within the northern part of the site, together with other linear features (Stratascan 2004; Fig 2). Ridge and furrow cultivation patterns were also identified during evaluation trenching and geophysical survey, and local residents remembered substantive groundworks having been undertaken to level these remains.
- 1.8 An additional archaeological evaluation, specific to the area of proposed residential development, comprising the excavation of eleven trenches was undertaken by CA in September 2004 (Fig. 2). The evaluation indicated that prehistoric and Roman activity, comprising possible Iron Age postholes and pits and a probable Roman enclosure and associated ditches, appeared to be largely confined to the northern-most part of the site (CA 2004). Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age features identified during the previous link road evaluation in 2002 also appeared to be confined to the northern-most part of the site.
- 1.9 An archaeological Monitoring and Recording Exercise was conducted at The Old Vicarage, immediately east of the site, in 2006. An irregular grid of north/south- and east/west-orientated ditches, yielding large quantities of Roman pottery, were identified. The recovery of nine fragments of Roman ceramic box-flue and roof tile (*tegulae*) suggested the possible presence of a substantial Romano-British building in the vicinity of the site. An assemblage of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint artefacts (comprising waste flakes and a small number of tools) was also recovered during the excavation of the Romano-British features. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery was also noted (Ducker 2006).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluations and excavation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information would assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.
- 1) establish the dates, chronology and character of the identified activity
 - was it continuous or episodic?
 - how extensive was the activity over time?
 - when did it start and end?
 - what can be discovered about the nature of the structures on the site? How were they built? What function did they perform?
 - 2) determine the nature of the patterning of the activity within the excavated area
 - is there intra-site variation in deposit, structure and feature type and function?
 - does artefact and ecofact distribution match that patterning?
 - is there significance in the deposition of artefactual/ecofactual material?
 - how are the secular, funerary and ritual elements of the landscape arranged in the excavated site? How do these fit into the wider contemporary landscape?
 - 3) analyse the economic base and resource exploitation of the site
 - what technological and craft processes were carried out?
 - is there any evidence to allow environmental reconstruction and how reliable is that evidence?
 - what categories of material are present/absent and why?
 - what was the source of raw materials?
 - is there any evidence for trade relationships in the artefactual material or raw materials? How local or extensive were any such links?
 - 4) test the model of prehistoric and Roman activity and settlement in the region
 - does the site have a specialist function within that model?
 - how does it fit within the chronology of sites in the area?
 - is the settlement activity seasonal? episodic? marginal?

- provide information on the survival and quality of the archaeological resource to assist in the management of the resource in similar physical locations
 - how truncated are features and deposits?
 - what types of material evidence may be expected and what has survived?
 - what is the best method of prospection for such sites?
- test feature sampling strategies and disseminate the results of the work to the widest possible audience
- prepare an archaeological archive of the site including the treatment and preservation of any finds, and the detailed analysis and publication of results to an appropriate level

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil, typically 0.3m and 0.1m in thickness respectively, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision, to the top of the first significant archaeological deposits or otherwise to the top of the natural geological substrate.
- 3.2 Archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of the archaeological stratigraphy. A detailed strategy for sampling of the archaeological remains was determined in consultation with Sue Farr at WCC, with a minimum 10% of linear features (ditches/gullies) excavated, including all intersections, overlaps and terminals. Pits were at least 50% sampled and deposits relating to funerary/ritual activity (e.g. burials, cremations) and domestic/industrial activity (walls, post-holes, hearths, floor surfaces/floor make-up deposits) were fully investigated. In some cases individual features did not merit these sampling levels e.g. due to their common/repetitious nature suggesting that they were unlikely to yield significant new information. Bulk horizontal deposits were as a minimum 10% excavated by hand, after which a decision was taken (in consultation with WCC) to remove the remainder using machinery. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (CA 1996).
- 3.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental/palaeoeconomic potential and where appropriate sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The taking of*

samples for paleoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic analysis from archaeological sites (CA 2003). A total of 35 bulk soil samples were processed.

- 3.4 Human remains were encountered during the course of the excavation and were lifted in accordance with the regulations set out within the requisite Home Office licence. Bulk sampling of 100% of inhumation grave fills was undertaken to maximise bone and artefact recovery.
- 3.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 1995).
- 3.6 The archive and artefacts from the evaluations and excavation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archives (including artefacts) will be deposited with Trowbridge Museum and assigned an accession number.

4. RESULTS

Fieldwork summary

- 4.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation and excavation results by period (Fig. 3); detailed assessments of the finds and geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental analysis (biological evidence) are to be found in Appendices 1 to 15. The results of an ongoing watching brief will be incorporated into the publication text.

Period 0: Geology

- 4.2 The underlying Kellaway Clay, layer 392, was encountered within a number of sondages and evaluation trenches excavated across the site. The clay was overlain by a layer of mottled, weathered, sandy-clay 003/390, typically 1m in depth, that was recorded across the site. This weathered clay layer was cut by a series of palaeochannels and by all of the archaeological features recorded during the excavation.

4.3 A north-west/south-east-aligned linear feature, approximately 5m in width, cut through sediments of the Kellaway Formation within the southern part of the site. Machine-excavated sondages through this palaeochannel, where it exited the north-west and south-east edges of the excavation area, revealed a series of deposits of sandy and silty sediments with evidence of post-depositional iron staining towards the base of the feature. The sondage excavated at the south-eastern edge of the site suggested that the palaeochannel complex petered out in this area, with no evidence for a surviving southern bank and the northern bank only just visible as a weathered line at the surface of the Kellaway Formation. The channel had become entirely infilled with alluvial sediments prior to the Roman period. The palaeochannel ran perpendicular to the present slope, suggesting that the topography of the area might have subtly changed since the Roman period and therefore that southern parts of the site have been exposed to more intense erosion processes than those in the north.

4.4 The sondage excavated within the south-eastern part of the site revealed sand and flint-filled channels at the interface between the sands of the Pleistocene Second Avon Terrace and clays of the Kellaway Formation. These channels must have formed in either the Cretaceous or the Tertiary epochs. More significantly, the flint within the channel fills is likely to be the source of most of the unworked flint encountered on the site.

Period 1: Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (c.2600 – c. 2400BC)

4.5 A shallow oval pit was partially exposed within the northern-most part of the site during the 2002 evaluation (trench 1; pit 114E) and the remaining half of the feature was investigated as pit 048 during the excavation. A total of 115 sherds of Beaker pottery were recovered from its primary fill 053 and secondary fill 049, comprising a number of fineware vessels, including comb-impressed designs, and fingernail-rusticated coarseware vessels. A worked flint scraper, two scraper fragments, a blade and five flakes recovered from secondary fill 115 are not closely datable but would not be out of place in a Beaker assemblage. In addition a few weed seeds were recovered from a processed bulk sample from primary fill 053 and an unidentifiable animal bone fragment from secondary fill 049.

- 4.6 The pit was sealed by an isolated lens, 0.1m thick, of redeposited sandy-clay which was identified by Dr Keith Wilkinson of ARCA as having been reworked from unconsolidated sands of the Second Avon Terrace during the Neolithic-Bronze Age interval. Following this identification, further sand strata were mechanically removed from within the northern part of the site to check for further features of this date but none were revealed.
- 4.7 A broad and very shallow linear ditch, 690, ran on a north-west/south-east alignment through the south-western part of the site. A total of 35 sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery were recovered from its fill 691. A single poorly-preserved barley grain was recovered from a processed sample from 691, the latter also containing a pig tooth and cow and sheep-sized long bone fragments which had been chopped. In addition, a shallow pit 164 which cut ditch 690 produced three sherds of Bronze Age pottery.
- 4.8 Further, residual, Beaker coarseware sherds were recovered from secondary fill 076 of Period 1 ditch 052/075.

Period 2: Bronze Age (c.2400 – c.700BC)

- 4.9 Four pot sherds of potential Middle Bronze Age date were recovered from pit 140 within the southern part of the site, and residual Middle Bronze Age pottery was also recovered from Period 4 ditch 149.
- 4.10 A north-west/south-east-aligned V-shaped ditch 052, previously identified during the 2002 evaluation (trench 1; feature 104E), was noted within the northern-most part of the site. Its south-eastern terminal had been cut by a Period 4 (Early Roman) ditch 420. Pottery recovered from sondages through ditch 052 included bowl sherds of probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date and seven fired clay fragments recovered from a flat, plate-like, object which possibly represent lids used to cover cooking vessels or hot plates for cooking or heating.
- 4.11 Pottery of late prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age, date was also recovered from fills 139 and 170 of postholes 138 and 169.

Period 3: Iron Age (700BC – 1st century AD)

- 4.12 Middle Iron Age dating is suggested for a posthole 700 and residual pottery of the same date was recovered from fill 665 of period 4 ditch 664.
- 4.13 Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery was recovered from fill 017 of pit 016, and late prehistoric/Iron Age pottery from fill 090 of posthole 091. In addition, pottery of broadly late prehistoric (Late Bronze Age to Iron Age) date recovered from postholes 108, 704, 715, 758 and pits 104, 116, 140, 280, 282 and 284 and from ditch 206 suggests further Iron Age activity within the south-eastern and south-western parts of the site.
- 4.14 The south-west area contained concentrations of postholes, small, shallow, pits, and a large shallow feature 280 (probably a natural depression), forming no identifiable structural patterns. A series of postholes found in 2004 evaluation trench 8 appeared to relate to this posthole group (postholes 804E, 818E, 820E, 822E, 824E, 826E, 828E, 839E and 832E). All of the postholes encountered during the evaluation and excavation (Fig. 2) contained identical fills consisting of very dark grey silty-clay, often containing large quantities of pottery and burnt stone. This material also appeared in the irregularly-shaped feature 280 close to the postholes, perhaps suggesting that this artefact-rich material is a remnant occupation layer which has been truncated by later agricultural episodes and only survived within negative features.
- 4.15 The south-eastern concentration of postholes was accompanied by a small number of shallow pits (140, 558, 623 and 742) as well as a large number of stakeholes. Although the postholes contained late prehistoric pottery, they do not appear to form any recognisable pattern. The stakeholes however appear to include several linear arrangements, suggesting rectilinear structures, as well as a number of possible horseshoe-shaped arrangements suggesting the presence of wind breaks, possibly built for some outdoor processing or industrial activity. Some isolated discrete features and postholes dated to this period were scattered across the northern third of the site. Pit 580 contained a reasonably well-preserved assemblage of hulled barley with frequent weed seeds, and reasonably large assemblage of charcoal with oak predominant. In addition, 20 burnt stone fragments recovered from pit 580 may represent remains of heating stones for cooking.

- 4.16 A north-west/south-east-aligned gully 658 was also noted. A processed sample from fill 659 yielded no palaeo-environmental remains.

Period 4: Early Roman (1st – 2nd centuries AD)

- 4.17 The excavations revealed the remains of a substantial field system across the site. This field system was first identified during the 2002 evaluation and was further defined by the 2004 geophysical survey. Although the geophysical survey suggested the probable presence of an enclosure within the field system none was encountered when the site was excavated.
- 4.18 Where investigated the ditches were found to be V-shaped in profile, typically 1m in depth and contained silt-clay fills which were with a greenish-grey mottled silt very similar to the yellowish-brown mottled clay into which they were cut. All contained 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery, with large Early Roman pottery assemblages recovered from ditch 479, the primary fill of ditch 472 and ditch 507. Ditch 420 appeared to be cut by ditch 472. Ditch 060 may represent the western edge of the field system, as no further Early Roman features were noted to the west of it. The southern edge of the field system, represented by ditches 661 and 666, correlated with the location of palaeochannel 357. Ditches 149 and 517 were also created to the north of the palaeochannel either to aid with drainage or to formalise this boundary. Each contained pottery dating between the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. A red deer antler was also recovered from the fill of ditch 666. A possible Early Roman ditch 688 was also partially revealed.
- 4.19 Four shallow curvilinear gullies; 370, 398, 526/573 and 527/560 were recorded within the northern-most part of the site. Two of these gullies, 370 and 398, appeared to enclose a circular arrangement of postholes which may represent the remains of a round house. Gullies 526/573, 527/560, and 621 together enclosed a shallow circular depression 596 that contained possible packing stones 501/620 which produced a relatively large group of Early Roman pottery together with a sandstone whetstone and six fragments of fired clay, possibly from a loomweight of unusual form.
- 4.20 A series of intercutting gullies (437, 533, 549, 568, 717, 719) and two shallow pits (611 and 613) were also revealed below later Roman soil deposits. Their presence however

suggests that further settlement activity approximately 15m south of drip gullies 370, 398, 526/573 and 527/560. A posthole 723 in this area yielded part of an iron reaping hook from its fill 724. A large shallow features 351 (probably a natural depression) yielded a single Roman pot sherd.

- 4.21 A 6m long shallow curvilinear gully, 740, was noted approximately 4m south of ditch 472. A small cluster of postholes 609, 618, 627 and 721 was located 1m north of the gully's eastern end. An irregularly-shaped feature 529, located 2m west of the gully, was cut by a sewer trench to its south.
- 4.22 A possible Early Roman ditch 688 was found during the excavation of a slot across ditch 149. This feature could not be seen in plan and was not investigated further due to excessive groundwater across this part of the site.
- 4.23 A much worn coin of AD 161-180 was recovered from subsoil 002.

Period 5: Late Roman (3rd - 4th centuries AD)

- 4.24 Four north-east/south-west-aligned human inhumation burials were encountered. Flexed burial 147, that of a male aged between 36 and 50 positioned with the head to the south-west, lay towards the western edge of the site and was poorly-preserved and fragmentary. Four hobnails were found in association with the burial, together with a dog skeleton sufficiently complete to suggest that it may have been deliberately placed within the grave, a pig jaw and half of a 3rd-century Black-Burnished Ware (BBW) pot. The burial is dated artefactually to between the late 3rd and mid 4th-centuries AD. The three other burials 094, 186 and 397 were grouped near to the centre of the site close to the southern terminus of Early Roman ditch 420 which may have still been visible as an earthwork during Period 5. Extended, supine, burial 094 lay within a shallow, north-east/south-west-aligned grave cut, approximately 0.3m below modern ground level, and had been partially disturbed during topsoil stripping. The burial was positioned with the head to the south-west, and the grave fill 093 yielded several worked flints as well as Roman pottery. Adjacent to this burial was a deeper grave 179 containing a double burial. Extended supine burial 397 was that of an adolescent aged 16 to 17, positioned with the head to the south-west. The skeleton was well preserved but incomplete. A

second extended supine burial 186, that of a male aged 36 to 50, was subsequently positioned over burial 397 with the head to the north-east. A modern sewer trench had cut away the feet and lower legs of burial 168 and the skull of burial 397. Nails were found around both burials suggesting that both had been buried in coffins, whilst hobnails found around the feet of burial 397 suggested the presence of boots.

- 4.25 Further field boundaries were identified on the north-west/south-east line of the former palaeochannel, which had been completely infilled by the late Roman period, represented by ditches 229/230, 341, 408, 413, 491, and 492. Ditches 360/490/341 and 491 had been previously identified during the 2002 evaluation. Ditch 278/713E produced a fragment of vessel glass of probable 1st to 3rd-century date from the secondary fill, ditch 341 contained late 4th-century pottery from its fill 342, and ditch 495 fill 396 contained a possible quartzite grinding stone. A coin of AD 364-78 was recovered from secondary fill 344 of ditch 341, and a green and yellow glass bead from fill 655 of ditch 654.
- 4.26 In the centre of the site a small area, partially enclosed by shallow ditch 709, contained intercutting gullies and irregularly-shaped discrete features (594 and 755). Towards the end of the Roman period this area had been overlain with redeposited soils 346, 393, 394 (which included quantities of Midlands pottery considered to date after c 360 AD), 419, 436 and 757. A spread of flat stone 391 yielded a redeposited fragment of Iron Age/Early Roman rotary quern and a fragment of millstone, apparently worn from reuse as paving, fitting with a piece from stone spread 199). These redeposited soils were also found in the upper fills of two Late Roman field ditches, 415 and 417, located immediately to the south of the gully complex.
- 4.27 A group of three elongated features (211, 221 and 222) and an oval pit 242 were identified to the west of the gully complex. These features were not sealed below the later Roman soils. All three features contained high concentrations of charcoal with mostly ash charcoal in 211 and hawthorn/apple/pear charcoal predominant in 242. Fragments of fired clay were also recovered from their fills, suggesting that they may represent the remains of flues for ovens, kilns or other industrial features. A residual fragment of possible kiln furniture was recovered elsewhere on the excavation site.

- 4.28 A series of stone rubble deposits (212E, 317, 379, 555 and 199) were laid across the southern boundary field ditches late in period 5 and appear to denote former causeways or bridging points in the area of the former palaeochannel. Stone spread 199 produced a fragment of upper stone from a typical Roman disc style rotary quern, as well as a fragment of millstone fitting with a piece from stone spread 391. The rubble spreads consisted mainly of roughly worked limestone, along with worked stone fragments from rotary querns and whetstones as well as architectural fragments. Rubble spread 317 crossed the northern-most ditch, 517, of the three ditches which ran along the southern edge of the field system. It contained a fragment of stone capital with mouldings, two fragments of column drum and a broken colonnette capital, together with a fragment of green Roman cast window glass, a fragment of whetstone and a worked sheep metatarsal with a pierced circular hole.
- 4.29 Stone floor tile fragments had been placed across the column fragments, perhaps to create a crossing point. Rubble spread 199 yielded five broken fragments from two types of stone gutter. These worked stone fragments suggest that a high status Romano-British building lay somewhere very close to the excavation area.
- 4.30 A dark soil 316 which overlies stone spread 317 produced an exceptionally large group of 951 pottery sherds dating to the mid 3rd to 4th-century AD although including quantities of earlier, residual, pottery. The deposit also contained a fragment of pennant sandstone paving stone reused as a point sharpener, 11 fragments of lead casting waste, possible handle from a lead or lead alloy vessel, and a worked bone hair pin shaft. A black silty deposit 200 around stone spread 199 contained a mortarium vessel 'second' hinting strongly at local production of oxidised wares and quantities of midlands shell-tempered ware considered to date after c 360 AD. Soil layer 516 which sealed ditch 517 yielded a fragment of roof tile reused as a whetstone, as well as two intrusive sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery.
- 4.31 Six late Roman copper alloy coins in poor condition were recovered as unstratified finds from the site, ranging in date from AD 270-3 to 388-402. These serve as broad indicators of activity during the late Roman period.

Period 6: Early Medieval / Anglo-Saxon (5th - 7th centuries AD)

- 4.32 A broad, shallow, sub-rounded depression 635, approximately 8m long, 5m wide and 0.1m deep, was noted in the far south-eastern part of the site. No postholes were encountered in association with the depression to indicate the presence of a sunken featured building (SFB) although a single sherd of pottery dating between the 5th and 7th centuries AD was recovered from its fill 635 together with residual late 4th-century pottery, and a cattle toe and unidentified animal bone fragments that showed signs of weathering.

Period 7: Medieval (13th – 14th centuries AD)

- 4.33 A concentration of medieval deposits and features was recorded in the far south-east part of the eastern extension to the site (Area B). Two broad, shallow layers, 466 and 467 occupied the southern-most part of this area, with pottery of 13th – 14th century date recovered from uppermost deposit 467. Layer 467 was overlain by a further deposit 395, which yielded several cattle and sheep teeth and was cut by a shallow east/west-aligned ditch 061, a shallow north/south-aligned gully 056 which also produced several cattle and sheep teeth, a shallow pit 695 and a small posthole 232.

Period 8: Modern (19th and 20th centuries AD)

- 4.34 An extant sewer crossed the site on a north-west/south-east alignment before turning southwards at the eastern end of the site. A broad spread of modern waste material ran parallel with the trench, and mixed redeposited soils were noted that appear to have been created when the former ridge and furrow system was flattened in the early 1970s. A north/south aligned service trench was exposed in the eastern extension to the site (Area B) together with various intrusive features. Modern tyre ruts were recorded running along the northern edge of the site.

Stratigraphic Record: factual data

- 4.35 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). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence and a site matrix was also compiled and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The excavation and evaluations comprises the following records:

Trench record Sheets	22
Context sheets	944
Void contexts	14
Plans (1:10, 1:20, 1:100)	194
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	204
Sample sheets	67
Monochrome Films	17
Colour slide Films	17
matrices	1

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

- 4.36 A secure stratigraphic sequence is essential to elucidating the form, purpose, date, organization and development of the various phases of activity represented. This can be achieved through detailed analysis of the sequence and further integration of the artefactual dating evidence. The refined sequence will then serve as the spatial and temporal framework within which other artefactual and biological evidence can be understood. Periods 1 to 7 and undated features have been identified as being of archaeological significance and therefore will be targeted for further synthesis, with analysis principally focussed upon the prehistoric and Roman stratigraphy.
- 4.37 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was good with archaeological remains having survived both as a wide range of negative features (pits, ditches/gullies, postholes/stakeholes, graves), together with some upstanding soil and stone spreads, was encountered. Survival of features is assessed as moderate, with many features probably truncated and missing upper fills as a result of known ploughing. There was a relative paucity of stratigraphic relationships, although from the artefact assemblages it has been possible for many features to have been assigned a preliminary period. Some features, particularly smaller pits, postholes and stakeholes within the southern part of the site, were undated artefactually and are currently unassigned to a period.
- 4.38 The potential for further analysis and understanding of the site as a whole, and of the various individual datasets within it, can be judged when the artefactual and biological

data are combined with the stratigraphic record. This potential varies both between types of data and between the chronological periods represented.

Artefactual record: factual data

4.39 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. Non-ceramic artefacts have been examined by a conservator and stabilised where appropriate. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Roman		
	Late Saxon		
	medieval		
	Post-medieval/modern		
	Total		
Flint			
Brick/tile			
Fired Clay			
Metals	Iron		
	Copper alloy		
	Lead alloy		
	residues		

Artefactual record: statement of potential

The flint

4.40 The small flint assemblage from pit 048/114E represents the only stratified material. No further research or analysis is proposed but a short note describing the group should be included in the publication text together with a drawing or photograph of the three tools.

The Prehistoric and Roman pottery

4.41 The small Early Prehistoric pottery assemblage, including Beaker material which appears to be indicative of domestic rather than funerary activity, is of intrinsic interest. Suitable recording of the group to standards issued by the Prehistoric Ceramics

Research Group is recommended. A report describing this material should be prepared and featured sherds, primarily the Beaker group from pit 048 and probable Middle Bronze age vessels, should be illustrated. Comparisons should be sought with other domestic Beaker groups in the region to place this group within its regional setting, and a scientific date should be sought from pit 048 to refine dating of the pottery group.

4.42 Although in relatively poor condition and largely undiagnostic, the stratified late prehistoric sherds should be fully quantified and a short report produced to characterise the assemblage.

4.43 Further analysis is proposed for the large roman assemblage to refine intra-site chronology and hopefully permit inter-site comparisons with previously studied groups from this area. Recording is recommended to the standards developed by the Study Group for Roman Pottery, including recording sherd count, weight, rim EVES by fabric, and systematic recording of identifiable vessel form. Roman pottery fabrics coding used in analysis should in addition be matched to the National Roman Fabric reference Collection series, and provisional identifications of samian should be confirmed at analysis stage. A selection of Roman pottery from large, stratified, groups and vessels of intrinsic interest should be illustrated for publication, to a maximum of 30 vessels.

The Anglo-Saxon, medieval and later pottery

4.44 A short note on the single organic-tempered sherd, and characterising the remainder of the assemblage, should be produced for publication.

The glass

4.45 The glass bead and vessel and window glass fragments recovered from contexts 317, 655 and 715E merit a brief description within the publication text, and the glass bead (RA 75) should be illustrated.

The coins

4.46 Due to the extent of edge damage and surface loss it is unlikely that cleaning will enable full identification of the coins. A list of the coins should be presented within the publication text.

Metal and worked bone artefacts

- 4.47 A brief descriptive catalogue should be prepared for all items in the archive. A small number of items of interest merit publication, including a catalogue description and illustration. Specialist cleaning of the tweezers and nail cleaner, the brooch, decorated lead strip and reaping hook will assist illustration and recording. A more detailed investigation of the nails from grave 179 may reveal more about the construction and form of coffins used.

The ceramic building material (CBM) and tile

- 4.48 The small and highly fragmented CBM assemblage requires a brief report for publication to characterise the material, and to properly record fabric types.

The fired or burnt clay

- 4.49 A short report characterising the mostly highly fragmented and undiagnostic assemblage should be prepared for publication. The clay plate from Period 2 ditch 075 and the possible loomweight from Period 4 layer 501 are noteworthy and require further analysis ahead of publication.

Architectural stone fragments

- 4.50 The type of stone used for each of the architectural fragments should be studied by a specialist Bath stone expert to seek to identify the quarry, and possibly bed, used. Both columns should be cleaned, photographed and drawn and their surfaces studied for working, damage and wear. A report should be included in the publication text. They do not need to be retained. The colonnette capital should be drawn and photographed, fully written up with comparanda and retained for museum storage as a relatively rare example. The five gutter block fragments should be catalogued, described and illustrated in the publication text and comparanda sought. They do not need to be retained.

The utilised stone

- 4.51 A fuller discussion of the worked stone is recommended for inclusion within the publication text, including reference to material from local sites. The mortar (Registered artefact 121) and quern fragments (RA 081 and 111) are recommended for illustration.

Metallurgical and other residues

- 4.52 The small assemblage, and lack of diagnostic material, limits its potential and no further work is recommended.

Biological record: factual data

- 4.53 All ecofacts recovered from the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. A 10-litre sub-sample of each environmental sample taken was processed for the purposes of this assessment.

Charcoal

- 4.54 Hand-collected charcoal was recovered from 8 contexts, and charcoal was retrieved from 38 processed bulk samples. The flots were small and many charcoal fragments were infused or covered with sediment which hampered flotation and assessment. Only occasional fragments of charcoal were recovered from sampled graves 92, 1477 and 179 and ditches 479, 481 and 507. Processed samples from pits and possible ovens were much richer, with reasonable assemblages from period 3 pit 580 (dominated by oak charcoal) and late Roman ?ovens 211 and 242 (dominated by ash)

Plant remains

- 4.55 Many of the charred plant remains were poorly preserved and encrusted with clay particles making identification difficult. Identifications are provisional and cleaning during full analysis may help improve identification levels and reveal a wider range of small chaff fragments and weed seeds.
- 4.56 Period 1 pit 048 yielded only a few weed seeds and no datable material. a Period 2 layer 690 produced a single barley grain, and a Period 3 pit 580 produced a reasonably well-preserved hulled barley assemblage with frequent weed seeds. Sampled early Roman ditch fills produced some barley grains and an emmer/spelt grain but no chaff fragments or weed seeds were observed. Processed samples from late Roman pit, grave and ?oven fills produced some poorly-preserved cereal grains, including frequent wheat grains and a few weed seeds and a single chaff fragment.

Biological record: statement of potential

The human bone

- 4.46 The four inhumation burials require no further analysis but a detailed discussion of the burials is recommended, setting the burials in their regional context.

The animal bone

- 4.47 The small assemblages from periods 1, 2, 6 and 7 require no further analysis but the results of their assessment should be included within the publication. Full analysis of the animal bone from Periods 3, 4 and 5 is recommended with a focus on those remains from securely stratified deposits. Further investigation should include examining changes in the use of domestic animals through time, species and elements present and changes in butchery methods, examining changes in the size of horses and cattle over time, and examining the possibility that the dog skeleton in grave deposit 148 may have formed part of the burial rite.

Geoarchaeology

- 4.48 No waterlogged deposits were encountered within the palaeochannels and no bulk samples taken as it was not thought they would aid field interpretation. No further analysis is recommended, but the results of the two geoarchaeological field inspections be incorporated into the publication text.

Charcoal

- 4.49 The paucity and small size of much of the material limits the potential for useful interpretation but further analysis of the more charcoal-rich deposits from Iron Age pit 580 and late Roman ovens 211 and 242 is recommended to examine the selection of fuel wood for different activities and to place the results within a regional context. In addition, the stem fragments recovered should be investigated for evidence of woodland management..

Plant remains

- 4.50 It is recommended that all remaining soil is processed prior to assessment and most of the residues should be included in the analysis, with double flotation and residue checking may improve recovery rates of charred grain suitable for analysis and

scientific dating. Comparisons should then be made with other sites in the area to see whether the local clay soils were being cultivated, or whether grain was being brought to the area fully processed.

5. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 5.1 General description of the type, distribution and extent of the archaeological remains, what periods or phases are represented, and a note of any undated and unassociated features. Also any exceptional finds or biological evidence.

6. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 6.1 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 Trowbridge Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project.

7. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The principal objectives remain as per the CA Project design: To elucidate the form, function and status of the archaeology on the site, to establish its chronology and phasing, and to compile information which would form the basis of a fully detailed report for publication. To achieve this, the following updated objectives were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The assessment of the excavated evidence suggests these objectives are broadly achievable, and a more detailed assessment of the potential of the excavated data in relation to some of these objectives is discussed below:

- 1) Establish the dates, chronology and character of the identified activity

Was it continuous or episodic? how extensive was the activity over time? When did it start and end? What can be discovered about the nature of the structures on the site? How were they built? What function did they perform?

7.2 The depositional sequence and the form of the cut features will be fully analysed. This will be combined with spatial analysis of the pottery and artefacts in order to achieve the fullest understanding of the date, chronology and function of the pits, ditches and other features. A greater understanding of the chronology of the Bronze Age activity may be assisted by full analysis of the flint and pottery assemblage and radiocarbon dating. The Iron Age activity represented by the clusters of postholes and related artefacts will be analysed in order to examine the possible function or function that these features represent. Full analysis of the Roman pottery assemblage, combined with the limited potential of metalwork and other finds will help refine the sequence in the early and later Roman periods, although residuality within intercutting features provides some limitations. The date range of activity on the site may be further assisted by radiocarbon dating of the burials found associated with Late Roman pottery. The presence of a sherd of Saxon pottery suggest possible Saxon activity on the site, and the features and deposits that represent the latest Roman activity and re-use of Roman building materials will be examined with a view to investigating this possibility.

2): Determine the nature of the patterning of the activity within the excavated area
Is there intra-site variation in deposit, structure and feature type and function? Does artefact and ecofact distribution match that patterning? Is there significance in the deposition of artefactual/ecofactual material? How are the secular, funerary and ritual elements of the landscape arranged in the excavated site? How do these fit into the wider contemporary landscape?

7.3 Full analysis of the form, function and distribution of features across the site has potential to refine the spatial patterning of activity. Spatial analysis of the artefacts and ecofacts holds limited potential to assist with this objective. Analytical work will be focussed towards understanding the relationship of the early Roman structures at the north-west area of the site with both the earlier Iron Age activity to the south and south-east, and to the Later Roman field system with particular reference to its peripheral status to a possible villa site within the immediate environs of the site. Patterning of the

secular, funerary and ritual elements has been observed in the assessment stage and the relationship of form, function and chronology of these elements will be further discussed following full analysis of the excavated evidence. Radiocarbon dating of the human burials may assist in defining the chronology of the ritual elements of the site.

3): Analyse the economic base and resource exploitation of the site

What technological or craft processes were carried out? Is there any evidence to allow environmental reconstruction and how reliable is that evidence? What categories of material are present/absent and why? What was the source of raw materials? Is there any evidence for trade relationships in the artefactual material or raw materials? How local or extensive were any such links?

7.4 The assessment has identified limited evidence for technological or craft processes identified by the Iron Age clusters of stakeholes and the Roman hearths or possible ovens. The assessment suggests that the potential to identify these processes is poor, but may be assisted by further analysis of the artefactual and ecofactual evidence in relation to this area. Further analysis of environmental samples may contribute towards reconstruction of local environments and local resource exploitation, and this analysis will be focussed on samples from discrete features where residuality or contamination from intercutting features is minimised. The site would appear to be on the periphery of high status, probable villa settlement, and much of the artefactual material would appear to derive from this source. Examination of re-deposited artefacts (notably architectural and utilised stone fragments), may cast light on some local trade networks.

4): Test the model of prehistoric and Roman activity and settlement in the region

Does the site have a specialist function within that model? How does it fit within the chronology of sites in the area? Is the settlement activity seasonal? episodic? marginal?

7.5 The Bronze Age activity within the site is confined to a pit and possible ditch, but the artefactual assemblage, and residual Bronze Age finds are sufficient evidence to suggest occupation in this period. The assemblage within the pit will be examined in relation to structure deposition and the evidence taken as a whole will be examined in relation to the known activity of this period in the region with a view to characterising its seasonal, episodic or marginal status. The evidence will be discussed in relation to the

South West Regional Research framework for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (Pollard accessed Nov 09). As stated in objective (2) above, the site appears to lie on the periphery of a Roman villa and its possible function and relationship in terms of land-use and land management to the villa will be examined with reference to the topography of the site and chronological sequence. The artefactual evidence for high status Romanised buildings and the possible location of this building to the site will be discussed with reference to the excavated evidence for Roman villa sites in the area. The excavated architectural fragments will assist in reconstructive interpretation of some elements of the possible villa buildings. The excavated evidence will be discussed in relation to the known distribution of villa sites in this area, which appears to belong to a concentration of villa establishments found within a radius of the Roman administrative centre at Bath (Branigan 1977; Ellis 2001).

- 7.6 The importance of the re-used Roman building material in the later deposits of the Roman sequence will be fully explored in terms of its chronological significance for the villa site and the possible identification of a post-Roman/Saxon phase of site use.

8. PUBLICATION

- 8.1 The results from this excavation, merit publication and are of obvious regional significance. It is proposed that a full report will be published in the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine.

Synopsis of Proposed Report

Land at New Terrace, Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire:

Excavations in 2007

by Alistair Barber and Mary Alexander

Abstract

Brief summary of main findings of the project 300 words

Introduction

Project background, archaeological background, topography, geology 500 words

Excavation Results

Chronological discussion of the major phases and features of the site 2000 words

The Finds

Radiocarbon Dating (Sylvia Warman) 400 words

Flint (Ed McSloy) 200 words

Pottery (Ed McSloy) 2000 words

Glass (Ed McSloy) 400 words

Metal & Worked Bone Artefacts (Ed McSloy and V. Taylor) 500 words

CBM, Tile & Fired Clay Artefacts (Ed McSloy) 300 words

Architectural Stone Fragments (Peter Davenport) 800 words

Utilised Stone (Fiona Roe) 750 words

Environmental Evidence

Human Bone (Harriet Jacklin) 1250 words

Animal Bone (Sylvia Warman) 1500 words

Charcoal (Dana Challinor) 500 words

Charred Plant Remains (Wendy Carruthers) 800 words

Discussion

Early Prehistoric (Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age & Bronze Age) 500 words

Iron Age 500 words

Roman 1000 words

Anglo-Saxon & Later 350 words

Conclusions 500 words

Acknowledgements & Bibliography 950 words

TOTAL 16,000 words (c. 19 pages)

Illustrations:

Location of site	1 page
Site plans with phasing	1 page
Site photographs	2 pages
Interpretive plans/sections	1 page
Flint	0.5 pages
Pottery	2 pages
Metalwork, worked bone and glass	1 page
Architectural stone (includes interpretive illustration)	2.5 pages
Burials	1.5 pages

Tables:

Radiocarbon dating	0.5 pages
Pottery:	1.5 pages
Animal Bone	1 page
Charred plant remains	1 page

TOTAL: 16.5 pages

Total Publication Estimate: 35.5 pages

9. PROJECT TEAM

9.1 The post-excavation and publication programme will be under the management of **Mary Alexander MIFA** (PX Manager), who will co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Neil Holbrook (Chief Executive Officer: CEO)

Draft report preparation, research

Alistair Barber (Senior Project Officer: SPO):

Post-excavation phasing, draft report preparation, research and archive.

Peter Davenport (Senior Project Officer: SPO):

Specialist report preparation

Ed McSloy MIFA (Finds Officer: FO):

Specialist report preparation and liaison, post-excavation phasing.

Sylvia Warman (Environmental Officer: EO)

Specialist report preparation and liaison

Pete Moore (Senior Illustrator: SI):

Production of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings (exc. pottery).

Victoria Taylor (Post-Excavation Archaeologist: PXA)

Specialist report preparation

9.2 Contributions by the following external consultants will be managed by the Finds Officer:

Dana Challinor (Freelance):	Charcoal
Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)	Charred Plant remains
Harriet Jacklin (Leicester University)	Human Bone
Fiona Roe (Freelance)	Utilised Stone
University of Waikato (New Zealand):	Radiocarbon dating
Peter Webster (Univ. of Cardiff).	Samian pottery identification
Keith Wilkinson (Winchester University)	Geoarchaeology
Wiltshire Conservation Centre	Conservation

9.3 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management.

10. TASK LIST

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION/ COST
Project Management		
	HOP	0.5
	PXM	9
Stratigraphic Analysis		
	PXM	2
	SPO	7
	FO	0.5
Technical support	PGO	0.5
Research, comparanda		
	SPO	2
Specialist liaison	FO	0.25
	EO	0.25
Flint		
Analysis and report	FO	0.5
Illustration	SI	0.5
Pottery: prehist & Roman		
Analysis and report	FO	10
Samian id.	Specialist	FEE
Illustration	SI	7
Pottery: A-S, medieval and later		
Summary report	FO	0.25
Glass		
Summary report	FO	0.5
Illustration	SI	0.5
Coins		
Report list	FO	0.25
Metal artefacts & worked bone		
Conservation	Specialist	FEE
Transport		FEE
Report preparation	PXA	2
Illustration	SI	2
CBM & Tile		
Report	FO	1
Fired & burnt clay		
Report	FO	1
Architectural stone fragments		
Report	SPO	2
i.d.	Specialist	FEE
Processing	FP	2
Illustration	SI	3.5
Utilised stone		
Report	Specialist	FEE
Geoarchaeology		
Report revision	EO	1
Human bone		
Report	Specialist	FEE
Animal bone		
Report	EO	10.5
Charcoal		
Report	Specialist	FEE
Charred plant remains		
Sample processing	FP	14
Report	Specialist	FEE

Radiocarbon dating		
Analysis (8 samples: 4 human bone, 2 paired charred material)	Specialist	FEE
Report preparation	EO	1
Preparation of publication report		
Introduction and Acknowledgements	SPO	1.5
	SI	0.25
Excavation results	SPO	5
	SI	2
Compilation of specialist reports, tables etc.	FO/EO	1
Discussion, conclusions	CEO	2.5
	PXM	1
	SI	3
Abstract and Bibliography	SPO	2
Report compilation and primary editing	PXM	4
Submission to external referees	PXM	0.5
Editing	PXM	2
Revisions	SPO	1.75
	SI	0.5
Quality assurance	HOP	1.5
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT	PXM	0.25
Archive		
Research archive completion	SPO	1.5
	PXA	2
Microfilm		FEE
Deposition		FEE
	PXA	0.5
Publication		
Printing	SANHS	FEE

CEO: Chief Executive Officer; HOP: Head of Publications; PXM: Post-Excavation Manager; SPO: Senior Project Manager; FO: Finds Officer; EO: Environmental Officer; PGO: Principal Geomatics Officer; SI: Senior Illustrator; PS: Project Supervisor; PXA: Post-Excavation Assistant

11. TIMETABLE

- 11.1 For a publication project, CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within one year of approval of the updated publication project design. A detailed programme will be produced on approval of the updated publication project design.

12. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: THE FLINT BY K. M PRICE

The worked flint consists of 16 pieces from 8 contexts weighing a total of 34g, including one piece recovered from environmental sample number 128. There was also worked flint retrieved from the evaluation consisting of 16 pieces from six contexts including two pieces recovered from environmental samples.

The flint is fairly fresh in appearance exhibiting little post-depositional damage. The raw material is poor to moderate quality flint, generally mid-grey to black or white in colour. The nature of the cortex indicates that the flint probably derives from secondary deposits which might include the gravels of the river Avon. Most of the pieces consist of flakes and flake fragments with one blade retrieved from an unstratified context.

The bulk of material is residual, occurring as isolated finds from ditch fills relating to the Early Roman (Period 4) to Modern periods (Period 7). An exception is a small concentration of artefacts from the evaluation phase (fill 115 of pit 114), from which a significant group of Beaker pottery was also recovered. The flint artefacts from this deposit, consisting of 1 scraper, two scraper fragments, one blade, one flake and four flakes, are not in themselves closely dateable, although they would not be out of place in a Beaker assemblage. It is not possible to assign a date to remainder of the flint, given that they are isolated occurrences and include no diagnostic artefacts.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for Further Analysis

The small group of flint from Beaker pit 114 is of some interest as the only (potentially) stratified material from the site. A short note describing this group should be included with the published site report. This should include a drawing or photograph of the three tools from the deposit.

Given the isolated nature and the absence of diagnostic artefacts from the remaining portion of the assemblage, no further research or analysis is proposed.

Summary

Report on stratified group
Illustration

0.5 day (AS)
0.5 day (SI)

APPENDIX 2: THE PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN POTTERY BY ED MCSLOY

Introduction

Pottery amounting to 6210 sherds (49081g) and dating between the Early Bronze Age (Beaker) and Roman periods was recovered. This total incorporates pottery recovered from trench evaluations undertaken in 2002 and 2004 (Table 1). The bulk of material was hand-recovered, with small quantities (97 sherds weighing 49g) retrieved following sorting of bulk soil samples. Recording ahead of assessment has included basic quantification by dated type, by sherd count and weight, sherd count according to fabric and, where applicable, note of vessel form and decoration. A significant portion of the pottery assemblage, comprising Late Prehistoric and Roman material (907 sherds or 14.6%), was recovered as unstratified material. This material was recorded at more basic level by sherd count/weight and a note made of fabrics represented.

Of the stratified material from the excavation, the majority derived from ditches or gullies (50.2% by sherd count) or from layers, mainly representing slumping above ditches (40.6% by sherd count). Of the remainder, most pottery was recovered from pits (5.2% by sherd count) and graves (2.4% by sherd count).

Quantities of Beaker pottery were recovered from a discrete area of the site located in the northern end, with approximately half coming from the 2002 evaluation Trench 1 (Table 1). Further quantities of prehistoric pottery, including material of probable Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age date, were recovered from across the site, with a proportion clearly residual. The large majority of the pottery recovered (93% by count) is of Roman date, with evidence for activity spanning the mid/late 1st to the later 4th centuries.

Overall the condition of the assemblage tended to be poor, largely it seems due to the effects of the local clay soils. Surface preservation, particularly of slips among the Roman component was typically poor, with the result in some instances that determining fabric was difficult. The presumed mildly acidic soils also resulted in the leaching of calcareous pottery inclusions, with the effect that limestone or fossil shell-tempered fabrics are characteristically vesicular. The leaching of inclusions is likely a contributory factor behind the high rates of fragmentation of the Late Prehistoric pottery component and low mean sherd weight (below).

Prehistoric Pottery

Beaker

Beaker pottery was recovered from two or possibly three deposits located towards the northern extremity of the site. The Beaker material is in all instances characterised by a similar-appearing grog-tempered fabric. Surface preservation among the Beaker material is mostly poor, with sherds frequently powdery and appearing abraded.

The largest group, amounting to 115 sherds (926g) derived from pit 048 and includes sherds from a number of fineware and fingernail-rusticated coarseware vessels. The finewares include sherds with finely-executed square toothed comb impressions including repeated bands and geometric motifs. The coarseware sherds, which make up the bulk of the group, consist of thicker-walled sherds from large vessels, some of which with shallow collared rims. The rusticated decoration is frequently elaborate and includes rows of fingernail impressions, fingernail impressions arranged in herringbone fashion and rows of fingernail, then 'bird bone' impressions.

Further Beaker coarseware sherds were recovered from ditch 075 (fill 076) and possibly also from Period 2 shallow linear 690 (fill 691).

Middle Bronze Age

Material provisionally identified as of Middle Bronze Age date was derived from Period 4 ditch 150 (fill 151). The Roman (provisional) phasing in this instance reflects the presence of (two sherds of) Roman pottery in association. The larger part of the context group consists of thick-walled, but featureless sherds in grog-tempered fabric and a vesicular, 'corky' appearing, type probably representing a leached shell-tempered fabric. One sherd in the 'corky' fabric features part of an applied, finger-impressed strip. This is a characteristic of Middle Bronze Age styles in the Deverel Rimbury tradition. Additional material occurring in a similar 'corky' fabric and potentially also of Middle Bronze Age date was noted from Period 3 pit 140 (fill 141).

Late Prehistoric

Pottery considered broadly of Late Prehistoric (Late Bronze Age to Iron Age) date amounts to 371 sherds (1521g). A significant proportion of this material was residual (163 sherds or 44%), occurring in Period 4 (Roman) and later phases or unstratified.

The larger part of the Prehistoric group consists of small sherds in fabrics probably representing leached limestone-tempered types (Table 2). The high fragmentation is reflected in a low mean sherd weight of under 3.6g. The poor

condition of much of the assemblage makes assessment of dating problematic. A small number of larger and better-preserved groups provide the best indications of dating. A group from Period 2 ditch 028 (fill 129) included sherds from a carinated bipartite or tripartite bowl in a fine flint-tempered fabric, which suggests probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date. Later, Middle Iron Age, dating is suggested for groups from Period 3 posthole 700 (fill 699) and Period 4 ditch fill 665 which include barrel-shaped and globular jar forms in leached limestone or shell-tempered fabrics.

Roman pottery

Roman pottery was recovered from 175 contexts, primarily the fills of ditches or layer deposits. Mean sherd weight is 8.4g which is moderately low for a Roman group and reflective of a fairly well broken-up assemblage, deriving primarily from ditches.

Composition

The composition of the assemblage in terms of provisional fabric groupings and source is shown in Table 3. The bulk of material consists of reduced or oxidised coarsewares, mainly of local origin. Non-local traded wares include a large group (19.5% of the stratified material by count) of Dorset Black-Burnished ware. A notable presence among British traded wares is the quantities of shell-tempered ware from Harrold, Bedfordshire (below).

Mortaria are primarily contributed from Oxfordshire, although Verulamium, Mancetter/Hartshill and North Gaulish material are also represented as single sherds.

British finewares are present mainly as Late Roman types of which Oxfordshire red/brown slipped wares and New Forest colour-coated wares are most prominent. Only a very small number of sherds of North Wiltshire-type colour-coated ware were present, although it is likely that identification is hindered by the soil conditions and the loss of surface slip. Continental finewares are present primarily as Gaulish samian and a single chip of Central Gaulish black-slipped ware from Period 5 gully 670 (fill 669). Amphorae occur as single fragments of Baetican type (Period 5 ditch fill 231) and a burnt and unidentified fabric (Period 4 ditch fill 512).

The samian (97 sherds or 1.9% of the stratified assemblage) comprises mainly Central Gaulish (Lezoux) material, with small quantities from South and East Gaulish factories. Most identified vessel forms are plain (Drag 33 cups; Drag 18/31 dishes and Drag 35/36 bowls are noted), however decorated (Drag 37) bowls were noted from Period 5 layer 317 and Ditch 417 (fill 418).

An aspect of the assemblage which merits comment is the presence of a number of vessels representing probable 'seconds' among local/north Wiltshire oxidised fabric WIL OX and mortaria type OXIDm. This is most obviously demonstrated from a mortarium vessel from Period 5 layer 200, which exhibits extreme 'bloating' of its base – an imperfection which would have resulted in marked unsteadiness when this vessel was in use. That the vessel was indeed used is indicated by wear to the inside. This and vessels (four) with evidence for bloating or rim warping are unlikely to have been 'marketed' far from the point of manufacture and hint strongly at production of oxidised wares, including mortaria, within the local area.

Dating

Chronological indicators, provided primarily by the traded wares, suggest activity extending across the Roman period, with an emphasis on the Late Roman period after c. 250/70 AD. A persistent problem encountered when assessing context date is the mixing of material of differing date. For the most part this can be seen as relating to re-deposition of earlier material within later deposits. There are a number of instances however where context groups are primarily composed of earlier Roman fabrics/forms, but which also include later (Roman) elements and it seems likely that some late intrusion of Late Roman (and medieval) pottery has occurred, perhaps as the result of post-Roman agricultural activity.

Earlier Roman groups which are moderately large and free from contamination occur from Period 4 layers 501 and 620 and ditches 479 (fill 480); 507 (fill 512) and 472 (fill 474). Such groups are dominated reduced coarsewares (LOC BS/LOC GW), Savernake wares (SAV GT). Small quantities of Dorset Black-Burnished ware (DOR BB) and Central Gaulish samian suggest that most 'early' groups date to the 2nd century AD.

Groups dating after c. 250/70 AD are commonly indicated by late-occurring jar, dish or bowls in Dorset Black-Burnished ware, or by local coarseware vessels copying the late series forms. Additionally, fineware types known to be produced after the middle years of the 3rd century also feature. These include Oxford red-slipped ware (OXF RS), which occur primarily as bowls and New Forest colour-coated ware (NFO CC), occurring as beakers and one flagon. A number of deposits included types (fabrics or forms) suggestive of activity continuing into the second half of the 4th century: Period 5 layers 200, 346 and 394 each included quantities of Midlands shell-tempered ware (HAR SH), occurring as jars with characteristic hooked rim, and considered to date after c. 360 AD. Equivalent dating is probable

for certain of the Oxford red-slipped ware vessels, primarily rosette-stamped forms present in Period 5 ditch 341 (fill 342), layer 377 and Period 6 layer 635. Ten Period 5 (Late Roman) deposits produced groups of in excess of 100 sherds, with layer 316 producing an exceptionally large group of 951 sherds (5446). In common with most of the larger groups, layer 316 is not well-preserved and includes quantities of residual material.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for Further Analysis

The Early Prehistoric assemblage, though small, is of intrinsic interest and provides supporting chronological information for the other artefact categories such as the worked flint. The composition of the Beaker material, which includes fine and coarsewares, would appear to be indicative of 'domestic' rather than funerary activity (Gibson 1982) and as such is one of few such groups recognised from the area. Suitable recording of this group is recommended to the standards issued by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). A report describing this material should be prepared and featured sherds, primarily the Beaker group from pit 048 and probable Middle Bronze Age vessels, drawn (up to 10 vessels). The report should attempt to draw comparisons with (domestic) Beaker groups in the region in an effort to place this group within its regional setting. Should suitable material be forthcoming from samples taken from Beaker pit 048, it is recommended that a paired radiocarbon determination be attempted to refine dating, estimated at present between c. 2400 and 1700 BC.

The significance and potential for analysis of the Late Prehistoric component, is lessened both by its poor condition and largely undiagnostic (chronologically) character. That portion of the assemblage considered to be stratified should be fully quantified to the standards advised by the standards issued by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (ibid.), and a short report produced with the aim of characterising the assemblage.

A chief aim of analysis with regard to the moderately large Roman assemblage will be the refinement of intra-site chronology, achievable through integration of pottery records with the site stratigraphic sequence. The issues of context 'mixing' outlined above which affects the Roman assemblage should be addressed at analysis stage and this will entail close liaison between artefact and structural specialists in order to resolve issues of site phasing. Analysis and full characterisation of this assemblage will, it is hoped, permit inter-site comparisons with previously-studied groups from the area, and help build a fuller understanding of regional pottery supply and use.

In order to fully characterise the assemblage and facilitate the addressing of research issues, recording is recommended to the standards developed by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP 1994): to include recording by sherd count, weight, rim EVEs (per fabric), and systematic recording of identifiable vessel form. Roman pottery fabrics codings used in analysis should in addition be matched to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection series (Tomber and Dore 1998). Provisional identifications of samian should be confirmed at the analysis stage by Peter Webster (Univ. of Cardiff).

Intrinsically, the Roman assemblage is of value as of reasonably large size and from an area not extensively published. Roman assemblages from the region which might usefully be utilised for comparison and to inform issues of supply and 'status' include those from Showell Farm Chippenham, (McSloy 2006) 74–8) Box, (Borthwick and Pengelly 1987), Marshfield (Ward 1985) and Bath (Green and Young 1985).

A selection of Roman pottery from larger, stratified groups or vessels of intrinsic interest, should be illustrated for publication, to a maximum of 30 vessels.

Summary of proposed further work

Full recording (Prehist. and Roman)	5 days (FO)
Confirmation of samian identification	1 day (Peter Webster)
Report production (Prehist. and Roman)	5 days (FO)
Illustration (maximum of 50 vessels)	7 days (SO)
Radiocarbon dating (2 x samples)	fee

Table 1: Summary pottery quantification (quantification as sherd count and weight in grams)

Category	Excavation	Evaluation 2002	Evaluation 2004	Total
Early Prehistoric	110:759	72:639	-	182:1398
Late Prehistoric	355:1334	14:85	4:102	373:1521
Roman	5745:46988	105:1001	117:879	5967:48868
Total	6210:49081	191:1725	121:981	6522:51787

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery summary. Quantification as sherd count. Excludes unstratified material.

Date	Fabric Code	Description	EXC	Eval '02	Eval '04
Early Prehist. (Beaker-MBA)	BK GROG	Beaker grog-tempered	55	64	
	GROG	Other (undecorated) grog-tempered	9	8	
	QZ	Sandy	6		
	SH	Leached shell	16		
	VES	Coarse 'corky' leached shell	24		
Late Prehist.	IA GROG	Fine/medium, grey-firing grog-tempered	8	4	1
	IA FL	Fine flint-tempered	22	2	
	IA GRLI	Grey-firing grog-tempered with limestone	1		
	IA LI	Limestone-tempered (mainly leached)	179		1
	IA ORG	Organic inclusions	2		
	IA Q	Sandy	16		
	IA SH	Fine/medium shell-tempered	133	8	2
Total			471	86	4

Table 3: Roman pottery summary. Quantification as sherd count. Excludes unstratified material.

Origin	Fabric code	Description	EXC	Eval '02	Eval '04
Local/ uncertain	LOC BS	Black-sandy (local/North Wilts)	790		20
	LOC GW	Greyware (local/North Wilts)	1638	69	40
	LOC GWf	Greyware, finer (local/North Wilts)	1		
	LOC Gwgrit	Greyware gritty with flint	3		
	LOC GWls	Greyware with limestone	7		
	LOC GWm	Greyware, micaceous	4		
	LOC GWws	Greyware, with white slip	3		
	WIL CC	Colour-coated ware (local/North Wilts)	3	1	
	WIL OX	Oxidised ware (local/North Wilts)	641	9	23
	WIL OXf	Oxidised ware, finer (local/North Wilts)	54		
	WIL OXws	Oxidised ware finer with white slip (North Wilts?)	6		
	BBIM	Black-Burnished imitation (local/North Wilts)	213	12	2
	SOW WS	South-west white slipped ware	23	2	
	SAV GT	Savernake grog-tempered ware	157	3	4
	GROG	Grog-tempered, black-firing	9		
	CRUCI	Crucible	1		
	OXIDm	Oxidised mortaria (local/North Wilts)	1		
WH	Whiteware, unidentified	10		1	
Regional	DOR BB	Dorset Black-Burnished ware	965	3	24
	ROM SH	Harrold Shell-tempered	79		
	MAH WHm	Mancetter/Hartshill whiteware mortaria	1		
	NFO CC	New Forest colour-coated	34	1	
	OXF PA	Oxfordshire Parchment ware	1		
	OXF RS	Oxfordshire red or brown-slipped	113	1	2
	OXF WHm	Oxfordshire whiteware mortaria	5		
	OXF WSm	Oxfordshire white-slipped mortaria	5		
VRW WHm	Verulamium region whiteware mortaria	1			
Import	AMPH	Amphora (burnt, unid.)	1		
	BAT AM	Baetican amphora	1		
	SAM	Samian – most Central Gaulish	92	4	1
	GGAUL BS	Central Gaulish black-slipped	1		
	NGAUL WHm	North Gaulish whiteware mortaria	4		
Total			4867	105	117

APPENDIX 3: THE ANGLO-SAXON, MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY BY TERESA GILMORE

Pottery totalling 50 sherds (476g), dating from the Anglo-Saxon period to the modern period, was recovered (Table 4). This total includes the material recovered from the earlier evaluations. The material was all hand collected. Recording consisted of sherd count and weight by fabric, noting vessel form and decoration. All of the pottery recovered, apart from the modern china sherds, demonstrated a high degree of abrasion frequently resulting in the removal of glazes. Most medieval and later pottery is considered intrusive, being present in small quantities alongside earlier pottery types and from Roman (Periods 4 and 5) deposits.

Of note was one sherd (2g) of a dark-grey organic tempered fabric from Period 6 occupation layer 635. Similar material is described from published excavations in Trowbridge (Mephem 1993) and all is consistent with Anglo-Saxon dating (5th to 7th centuries AD).

Medieval pottery, probably dating to the 12th to 14th centuries, totalled 35 sherds (254g) and consisted of body sherds of cooking pot and glazed jug type fabrics. The poor condition of the glazed sherds makes identification of source difficult, however it appears that wares from Bristol (Ham Green) and South Somerset account for the majority.

Post-medieval and later pottery consisted of 14 sherds, weighing 220g. This small group is made up of glazed earthenwares, imported German stonewares (Westerwald and Frechen) and modern china. The majority of this material was unstratified.

Potential for further work

Due to the size of the assemblage, degree of abrasion and apparent intrusiveness, there is a limit to the usefulness of the medieval and later material. The presence of an Anglo-Saxon sherd is however notable.

A short note, chiefly to record the presence of the Anglo-Saxon material and briefly characterise the remainder, should be produced for publication.

Summary

Report preparation

0.25 day (FS)

Table 4: Summary pottery quantification (quantification as sherd count and weight in grams)

Category	Excavation	Evaluation 2004	Total
Early medieval pottery	1:2	-	1:2
Medieval pottery	34:232	1:22	35:254
Post-medieval and Modern pottery	11:166	3:54	14:220
Total	46:400	4:76	50:476

APPENDIX 4: THE GLASS BY E.R. MCSLOY

Two fragments and one bead of glass were recovered from three Period 5 deposits (Table 5).

Object

Registered Artefact (RA) 75 from fill 655 of Period 5 ditch 654 is a complete annular bead of translucent natural green-coloured glass with a wavy trail of opaque yellow glass. It conforms in form and decoration to Guido’s Group 5c ‘Green or natural translucent greenish glass annular beads with white, yellow or blue wave’ (Guido 1978, 64). As such it belongs to what Guido saw as a loose affiliation of beads of varying date. Nine examples of the class listed by Guido include from Middle/Late Iron Age, earlier Roman and possibly post-Roman contexts.

The bead is of interest as an example of Guido’s Group 5 from a dated context.

Vessel Glass

A single small fragment of natural blue/green-coloured vessel glass was recovered from Period 5 ditch fill E715 (fill of 713E). It is thick-walled and probably represents a fragment from a container, such as a prismatic bottle. As such it probably dates to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD.

Window Glass

A fragment in natural green-coloured glass from Period 5 stone-spread 317 over ditches 600 and 603 exhibits the characteristics of flatness and matt and glossy, slightly uneven surfaces, which are consistent with cast window glass of Roman date.

The presence of window glass, albeit a single fragment, is of significance as (further) evidence for a higher-status structure in the area.

Table 5: Glass summary

Ra. no.	Context	Period	Description
75	655	5	Annular bead. Guido Group 5c
-	715E	5	Vessel glass (natural blue/green). Prismatic bottle?
-	317	5	Window glass (Natural green)

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for Further Analysis

The glass items described above are of sufficient interest to merit the inclusion of a short descriptive report, within the publication. This may take the form of an amended version of the assessment presented here. Additionally bead Ra. 75 should be drawn and fully described.

Summary

Revise report and describe bead
 Draw bead

0.5 days (FO)
 0.5 days hours (SI)

APPENDIX 5: THE COINS BY E.R. MCSLOY

Eight coins, all of copper-alloy and of Roman date, were recovered (Table 6). The condition of the coins as recovered is poor, and this prevents full identification in most instances. X-radiography was undertaken as part of the assessment to assist in identification and to indicate survival of detail masked by adhering soil or corrosion (Plate 11055). Most coins are unstratified finds and all are in poor condition. The one stratified coin from this site derived from the secondary fill (344) of Period 5 Ditch 341.

Table 6: Coin Summary

Reg. Artefact no.	Context	Description	date
2	002 (subsoil)	Sestertius. V. worn. Marcus Aurelius?	AD 161–180?
91	Us	Radiate prob. Tetricus I. Rev. Victory walking l.	AD 270–3
-	Us. (790e/340n)	AE3. Gloria Exercitus (2 Std.). Arles.*LRBC 374.	AD 330–5
-	Us.	Barbarous radiate. Rev. from Pax?	AD 270–90
-	Us.	Barbarous radiate. Rev. from Pax?	AD 270–90
-	Us.	AE3. illeg.	C4
-	Us.	AE3. Victoria Aug GG. Arles	AD 388–402
71	344	AE3. Hs. Valentinian. Gloria Romanorum (emperor with captive, kneeling). Mint illeg.	AD 364–78

*Late Roman Bronze Coinage (Kent *et al.* 1978)

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for Further Analysis

The stratified coin from fill 344 of Period 5 ditch 341 is of significance as a date marker, enhancing the chronological evidence otherwise provided by the pottery. The remaining, unstratified, coins are of lesser interest, but serve as broader indicators of activity at the site, which notably extends into the final issue period for coins in Roman Britain, after AD 388. Due to extent of the edge damage and surface loss it is unlikely that cleaning will enable full identification of the coins. A list of the coins, based on the notes presented here, should be included in the final report.

List preparation for report

0.25 days (FO)

APPENDIX 6: METAL AND WORKED BONE ARTEFACTS BY V. TAYLOR

A total of 684 items, comprising 653 of iron, nine of copper alloy, 19 of lead and three of worked bone were recovered (Table 7). The majority of items relate to Late Roman (Period 5) deposits, excepting a small number from Early Roman (Period 4) deposits and one example from a medieval (Period 7) context. Unstratified items were also recorded. Material was obtained through hand collection on site and flotation of environmental soil samples, 13 of which produced metalwork.

Some heavily corroded items were x-rayed as part of this assessment in order to ascertain form and function (Plate 11053, 11054, 11055 and 11056). Preservation varies among objects with the majority, particularly those made of iron, being heavily corroded. All items are stored as appropriate with desiccating silica gel and humidity level scales. The items listed below are recommended for investigative conservation and treatments to ensure preservation.

Copper Alloy

A variety of copper alloy objects were recovered, most notable a pair of tweezers and spoon/nail cleaner handle from fill 599 of Period 5 ditch 600 and an unstratified brooch.

Ditch fill 599 produced two items of interest, Registered Artefacts (RA) 122 and 123. RA 122 is a set of copper-alloy tweezers, in good condition apart from a break at the end of one arm. RA 123 is an elongated strip with a suspension loop at one end and what appears to be a fork at the other end. The most likely function of this object is as a nail cleaner, similar to mid to late first century examples from Wanborough (Anderson *et al.* 2001) and Colchester (Crummy 1983). It is highly probable that at some point both items were part of a toilet set, suspended from a loop alongside a small copper alloy spoon which is now missing.

A portion of a probable hair pin was recovered from fill 343 of Period 5 ditch 341. Typological dating cannot be applied to this item as the head of the pin is missing.

Other items include an early Roman Colchester derivative brooch from which the pin is absent. Although this item was unstratified, the good preservation suggests it may have been reworked from a Roman deposit in comparatively recent times.

Iron

A large number of iron objects were recovered, the majority of which were iron nails deriving from Period 5 deposits. Items dateable by form are restricted to a reaping hook and hobnails.

Fill 724 of posthole 723 (Period 4) produced an iron reaping hook (Manning type 2). Although broken the item is comparative to an example from Hod Hill which has been provisionally dated to the Iron Age period (Manning 1985).

The largest concentration of nails was recovered from fill 180 of grave 179 (Period 5). This grave contained 2 burials, skeletons 186 and 397. A significant quantity of hobnails was recovered from this context leading to the interpretation that footwear was worn by both individuals (RA 118 and 119 are recorded as hobnails belonging to skeleton 397). The large number and range of iron nails recovered, excluding hobnails, appears to be consistent with coffined burials from Poundbury (Farwell and Molleson 1993) and suggests that both individuals were interred in coffins.

Lead

A small amount of lead was recovered from Period 5 layer 316, overlying stone spread 317, and as unstratified finds (399). Of interest from deposit 316 (Period 5) is a bent strip decorated with a chevron/leaf-like pattern. A possible interpretation is that this object is a handle from a lead or lead alloy vessel and this is something which would benefit from further investigation. Metal detecting of the spoil heap (deposit 399) also recovered a circular lead object with a hole through the centre which is likely to be a lead weight.

Worked Bone

Three items of worked bone were recovered, two unstratified objects and one from Period 5 layer 316.

Layer 316 produced a hair pin shaft. As with the copper-alloy pin from ditch fill 343 the absence of the head prevents typological dating. RA 020 is a cow/horse sized metapodial which has been highly polished and which tapers at one end to a point. Suggested functions, based on similar items from Colchester (Crummy 1983), include use as a peg, a stylus or a weaving implement. The other unstratified item is a sheep-sized metacarpal which has a dorsal-ventral hole drilled mid way down the shaft. McGregor (1985) suggests this type of artefact may have been used as a toggle for clothing, as a child's toy or most likely as a bobbin for winding wool.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis

A small number of items of interest merit publication, to include catalogue description and illustration (Table 1). Specialist cleaning of the tweezers and nail cleaner from ditch fill 599, the unstratified brooch and the decorated lead strip would assist with the drawing and recording of these items. Selective cleaning of the reaping hook will aid investigation, particularly of the socket, and assist drawing. A more detailed investigation into the nails from grave fill 180 may reveal more about the construction and form of the coffins used.

A brief descriptive catalogue should be prepared for all items for the archive. Present packaging should be maintained to reduce the risk of deterioration.

Summary of proposed further work

Catalogue preparation 2 days (FO)
 Drawing of seven objects 2 days (SI)

Table 7: Metal and Registered Artefact summary

Material	Period	Context	*Ra. no.	Sample No.	Description	Count	Treatment?
Worked Bone	5	316			Hair pin - shaft fragment	1	
	/	u/s	020		polished bone point, horse/cow metapodial	1	draw
	/	u/s			sheep metacarpal with hole drilled in centre	1	draw
Lead	5	316	079		strip with decoration (possibly lead alloy), casting waste x 11	12	clean decorated strip, draw
	Spoil heap	399			circular weight with hole in centre, small nail, 5 casting waste	7	
Cua	/	u/s	125		2 x fragment, 2 x cylinder shaped fragments likely to be from same object	4	
	5	342	044		lump	1	
	5	343	057		possible pin shaft	1	
	Spoil heap	399			Colchester derivative brooch, pin absent	1	clean, draw
	5	599	122		tweezers	1	clean, draw
	5	599	123		body of small nail cleaner with suspension loop	1	clean, draw
Fe	7	057			hobnail	1	
	5	093		007	unidentifiable	6	
	5	093		008	unidentifiable	23	
	5	093		009	unidentifiable	8	
	5	094			nail fragment	1	
	5	146	008		hobnail	1	
	5	146	009		hobnail	1	
	5	146	010		nail head	1	
	5	146	011		hobnail	1	
	5	180			nail head	2	
	5	180			nail	1	
	5	180	014		nail head	1	
	5	180	015		nail	2	
	5	180	016		nail	1	
	5	180	017		fragment	1	
	5	180	018		fragment	1	
	5	180	022		nail	1	
	5	180	023		nail	1	
	5	180	024		nail	2	
	5	180	025		fragment	1	
5	180	027		nail	1		
5	180	028		nail	1		

5	180	029	nail	
5	180	031	nail	1
5	180	032	fragment	1
5	180	033	fragment	1
5	180	034	fragment	3
5	180	035	fragment	3
5	180	036	nail	1
5	180	037	fragment	1
5	180	038	fragment	1
5	180	039	fragment	1
5	180	040	nail fragment	1
5	180	041	fragment	1
5	180	042	nail	2
5	180	043	nail	1
5	180	046	nail	1
5	180	047	nail shaft	1
5	180	048	nail	1
5	180	049	nail	1
5	180	050	nail	1
5	180	051	nail	2
5	180	052	nail	1
5	180	053	nail	1
5	180	054	nail	1
5	180	055	fragment	1
5	180	056	nail	1
5	180	058	nail	1
5	180	059	nail	1
5	180	060	nail	1
5	180	061	nail	2
5	180	062	nail	2
5	180	063	nail	2
5	180	064	nail	2
5	180	065	nail	1
5	180	066	nail	1
5	180	067	nail	2
5	180	068	nail	2
5	180	069	nail	2
5	180	072	nail	1
5	180	073	nail fragment	1
5	180	074	fragment	1
5	180	076	nail	2
5	180	077	fragment	1
5	180	078	large nail	1
5	180	082	nail	1
5	180	084	large nail	1
5	180	085	large nail	1
5	180	086	hobnails – 5 are concreted together	15
5	180	086	nail	2
5	180	087	nail, 3 x fragments	4
5	180	088	nail	2
5	180	089	fragment	1
5	180	090	nail	3
5	180	092	nail	3
5	180	093	fragment	1
5	180	094	nail	1
5	180	095	nail	2
5	180	096	nail	1
5	180	097	nail	1
5	180	098	nail	2
5	180	099	nail	1
5	180	100	nail fragments, likely to be from 1 nail	3
5	180	101	nail	2

5	180	102		nail	1
5	180	103		nail	1
5	180	104		large nail	1
5	180	105		nail	1
5	180	106		nail	1
5	180	107		nail	2
5	180	108		nail x 2, hobnail	3
5	180	109		nail (2 fragments of same nail)	2
5	180	118		hobnail – some are concreted together	51
5	180	119		hobnail – some are concreted together	48
5	180	120		nail	2
5	180		030	unidentifiable	21
5	180		031	unidentifiable	7
5	180		032	unidentifiable	14
5	180		038	unidentifiable x 120, hobnail x 53	173
5	180		039	unidentifiable, hobnail	2
5	180		040	unidentifiable	4
5	186	012		nail	1
5	186		006	hobnail, 10 x unidentifiable	11
3	193			nail	1
5	200			nail	1
5	217	026		nail	1
5	231			hobnail	3
5	241	045		nail head, object	2
5	241		019	nail	1
5	316			hobnail, buckle/fitting? Check	2
5	316			flat, oval object	1
5	316			possible nail shaft/object	1
5	316			nail	5
5	316			nail	1
5	316			nail	1
5	316			large nail head	1
5	317			nail	1
5	317			nail	1
5	325			hobnail	1
5	342			nail, object	2
5	342			nail	2
5	344	070		large nail	1
5	346			? check	2
	377			nail	1
5	377			nail shaft	1
5	377			large nail x 2, nail	3
5	378			possible nail shaft fragment	1
5	394			3 x nail, object	4
spoil heap	399			25 x nail, object x 2, bracket/fitting object, 11 x hobnail	40
5	407			nail	1
5	414			hobnail	1
4	440			nail	3
4	480		046	unidentifiable	7
4	499			hobnail	1
4	508		045	unidentifiable	6
4	546			nail with large head, 4 x fragments	5
5	604			nail x 2, hobnail x 2	4
5	629			nail (2 fragments from same nail)	2
5	663			nail x 2, fragment x 3, curved object (2 pieces of same object)	7
5	675			nail with pottery attached to corrosion	1
5	682	124		nail	1
5	693			nail	2

	4	724	129		reaping hook	2	selective cleaning, draw
	4	727	130		nail head	1	
	/	u/s			object, strip	2	
	/	u/s			strip/possible nail fragment	1	
	/	u/s			object	1	
	/	u/s			wire loop, 2 x nail, 2 x fragment	5	
	/	u/s			nail	5	
	/	u/s			nail x 2, hobnail, pin/wire	4	
	/	u/s			nail	1	
	/	u/s			nail	1	
Total						685	

*Ra. =registered artefact

APPENDIX 7: THE CBM AND TILE BY TERESA GILMORE

Small quantities of ceramic building material (76 fragments, weighing 2810g) were recovered from 18 contexts. Preservation is variable with a high degree of fragmentation and abrasion noted. Three fabrics variations were noted, with the majority of fragments occurring in a hard, red-firing fabric with few inclusions.

Apart from an unstratified piece of medieval roof tile and some pieces of land drain, all of the ceramic building material is consistent with Roman fabrics and types. Types present consist mainly of combed flue tile, brick, tegula and miscellaneous fragments (Table 1). All the material recovered came from ditch fills and layers.

The majority of material (43 fragments, 1144g) were recovered from Period 5 contexts. Of note are the 11 fragments of flue tile (480g) which may suggest the presence in the vicinity of a building equipped with a hypocaust.

Statement of potential and requirements for further analysis and publication

The ceramic building material assemblage is small and highly fragmented. The presence of fragments of flue tile are perhaps of note, as an indicator of a high status building in the area. A brief report for publication to characterise the material, and to properly record fabric types is recommended.

Time required: 1 day.

Table 8: Ceramic building material by period (count:weight (g))

Artefact class	Unphased	Period 4	Period 5	Total
Brick		1 (11)	12 (182)	13 (193)
Tegula	1 (124)	1 (46)	5 (396)	7 (566)
Flue tile			11 (480)	11 (480)
Tile			1 (14)	1 (14)
Land drain	25 (1400)			25 (1400)
Post-medieval flat tile	1 (70)			1 (70)
Misc	2 (8)	2 (7)	14 (72)	18 (87)
Total	29 (1602)	4 (64)	43 (1144)	76 (2810)

APPENDIX 8: THE FIRED OR BURNT CLAY BY TERESA GILMORE

Fragments of fired clay totalling 398, weighing 2139g were recovered from 40 deposits (Table 9). The majority of material (389 fragments, 1843g) is highly fragmented so the original form and usage can not be determined.

Seven fragments of a flat plate-like object were recovered from deposit 076, dating to Period 2, the Bronze Age. Similar plates, dating to the Iron Age, are known for example from Gravelly Guy, Oxfordshire (Barclay and Wait 2000). Suggestions of use vary from use as lids for covering cooking vessels or as 'hot-plates' for cooking or heating. A further two fragments were recovered from an unstratified context.

Six fragments of a possible loomweight from Period 4, deposit 501, were recovered. The form of this item is unusual and parallels would need to be sought to confirm the identification.

The miscellaneous material occurs across the site and is represented in most of the Periods, with Periods 4 and 5 contributing the highest percentage of fragments (23.6% and 55.3% respectively). Some variation in fabric was noted. The most common types consist of a soapy, vesicular and relatively inclusion-free oxidised fabric and a poorly sorted coarse gravelly-inclusion reduced fabric.

Statement of potential for further analysis and publication

The fired clay assemblage is largely highly fragmented and includes few pieces where the original function can be determined. Two objects, the clay plate from Period 2 deposit 076 and the possible loomweight from Period 4, deposit 501 are noteworthy and are deserving of additional analysis ahead of publication. A short report characterising the assemblage should be prepared for publication.

Time required: 1 day.

Table 9. Fired clay by period (count:weight(g)).

Artefact class	Unphased	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Total
?loomweight				6:66				6:66
Plate	2:11	7:285						9:296
Misc	2:30	15:39	36:23	94:519	220:1138	1:2	15:26	383:1777
Total	4:41	22:324	36:23	100:585	220:1138	1:2	15:26	398:2139

APPENDIX 9: ARCHITECTURAL STONE FRAGMENTS BY PETER DAVENPORT

All the fragments seen were of oolitic limestone, all from a fine freestone bed. Some leaching of lime matrix from the oolitic structure was visible.

Column drums

The two drums of columns (Registered Artefacts 126 and 137) are uncleaned, so fine detail should it exist, has not been identified in this assessment. It is clear that the surface of the drums is very rough. In only one small area on Column 1 (RA 126) is what appears to be comb or tooth chisel work visible, but this cannot be confirmed in the drum's present state. However, it is clear that both columns have been accurately shaped, and either unfinished or damaged. They have also been deliberately modified after their primary use. Both have the edges of their extremities roughly rounded off. Column 2 (RA 127) is rounded at both ends, Column 1 is rounded at one end and about half of the integral square base (or possibly capital/abacus) at the other has been knocked off. Column 2 has a shallow, very roughly finished rounded recess cut centrally in one end. Column 1 has a similar, slightly smaller recess (in the end without a "base") which is noticeably off-centre. These are secondary and nothing to do with drum-locating iron pins, lathe-turning mandrels or handling holes. The columns are not tapered as far as can be seen and they appear to be plain. Their dimensions are: Column 1 dia. 0.28m, height 0.77m; Column 2 dia. 0.80m, height 0.25m. The base of Column 1 is 100-130mm thick and c.0.48m across.

Their small diameters suggest that, if parts of a composite column, they would be from an aedicule, framing a doorway or small porch. If complete in themselves, plus capital, then they could be from a balustrade. They are not like the normal colonnette, however, being far too dumpy in proportion (Blagg, 2002, 145-6) and without an appropriate profile, so are more likely to be from columns, if small ones.

From their condition, it is assumed that the final use of the drums was as hardcore.

Colonnette capital. RA 110

The capital is broken from the end of a colonnette and is also badly damaged over about a third of its surface. If it was lying near the surface then cultivation damage looks the most likely reason for the abrasion, with frost a contributory factor. Reddening of the stone suggests exposure to fire.

The mouldings are neat and probably lathe-turned. The deep square socket in the integral abacus of the capital (now quite damaged) is almost certainly for the lathe mandrel. The moulding pattern follows Blagg's capital Type VB, the distribution of which is predominantly Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and where datable, 3rd and 4th centuries. The upper diameter is 0.24m. The drum diameter, just measurable, is 0.15m, which suggests a shaft length between 0.53m to 0.88m (Blagg 2002, 145-6). This is furniture or balustrade size.

Gutter blocks, RA 113-117

These are all broken fragments of two kinds of gutter. One is a V-section cut into a square block, RA 117. The example to hand has a 60mm-deep channel cut centrally and taking up the full width of a block 160mm wide and 120mm deep. The block was 0.37m long but broken at each end. The capacity is low and more suited for dealing with overflows from domestic water features such as an *impluvium* or other such cistern (bath?), than dealing with rainfall.

The other is a rectangular- or slightly trapezoidal-section gully cut in a block leaving relatively thin walls.

Ra 113 is an example with thin walls (only 35mm thick) which could only have been robust if set in mortar in a solid floor. The block was only about 110mm across and the channel was immeasurable as only one side survived. Some signs of lime mortar were thought to be adhering to the underside but were difficult to distinguish from the powdering stone surface.

Ra 114 and 115 join to form a gully of this type, 100mm wide, cut into a block 160mm wide. The depth of the gully is unknown as the sides are broken down to a maximum survival of 40mm. Again this size of gully is not capable of draining external rainwater flows.

Ra 116 is another fragment of this kind of gully. While from its shape this fragment could be part of a roof ridge cover, the scale and lack of finish on the "outside" make this most unlikely.

Recommendations

The stone type of all the items should be studied by a specialist Bath stone expert with a view to identifying the source. Sometimes it is possible to identify the quarry and occasionally the bed.

The two columns should be cleaned, photographed and drawn. The surfaces should be studied for working, damage and wear. The items should be summarily written up for inclusion in the site report. They do not need to be kept.

The colonnette capital should be drawn and photographed. It should be retained for museum storage as these are relatively rare, although something like 270 colonnette fragments (shafts, bases, capitals) have been catalogued by Blagg (2002, 144; Table 13) it is not clear how many of these are capitals. Only 21 complete examples are listed. It should be fully written up with comparanda and published in the site report.

The gutter blocks should be catalogued and comparanda sought, especially *in situ*, section drawings should be made and the objects should be written up in the site report. They do not need to be retained.

Time estimates

Washing and cleaning column drums 1-2 days

Inspection of drums 1hr

Further research: 0.5 days

Preparation of text: 0.75 days.

APPENDIX 10: THE UTILISED STONE BY FIONA ROE

A total of 165 pieces of stone were examined with a x 10 hand lens to identify the materials, and were further inspected to identify both the category of use and the type of object. A further 8 pieces, including portions of column and a stone drain are assessed, separately (Davenport, this document). Ten objects were recorded, all seemingly of Roman date, but the main part of the assemblage consists of Roman building stone. There are 35 fragments of sandstone roofing tile, while another piece was re-used as an artefact, as was a similar paving stone fragment. There are around 60 fragments of local Jurassic limestone, some of them burnt, while twenty three small fragments of further burnt stone were listed. Some but not all of the pieces of local limestone may originally have been used for the construction of Roman buildings. Another 28 fragments of stone were considered to be unworked.

Building stone

The combination of limestone columns (see Davenport, this document) and sandstone roofing tiles suggests one or more relatively high status Roman buildings in the vicinity of the site. The 35 fragments of roofing tile are all small and none retained any traces of the characteristic Roman hexagonal shape or of a hole for fixing the tile. They were not directly associated with any building, having occurred in contexts such as ditch and pit fills or stone spreads. These fragments can however in nearly all cases be assigned to the late Roman period, with just four pieces from later contexts. The columns are likely to be of similar date, coming from a late Roman stone spread.

The roofing tile fragments all consist of Pennant sandstone, versatile Carboniferous sandstone that occurs in and around Bristol and also to the north of the eastern part of the Mendips, at a minimum distance of some 26 km (16 miles) from the site. Such tilestone would have been a weighty commodity to transport. It is suggested that in order to avoid a cumbersome journey over hilly country by ox cart, the tilestone may instead have been brought by boat up the river Avon from a source around Keynsham to the south east of Bristol. The numerous limestone fragments consist for the most part of a coarse-grained, shelly and oolitic Jurassic stone, which could have been found locally. The limestone used to make the columns has not as yet been fully identified but is likely to be a similar local Jurassic limestone. Some 39 of the other limestone fragments are from Roman or later contexts and could relate to the construction of Roman buildings. However there is one burnt fragment from a Bronze Age pit and 20+ fragments from an Iron Age pit and these must derive from the prehistoric practice of heating stone, most probably for cooking. Some of the other pieces of burnt limestone from Roman contexts could therefore be redeposited prehistoric cooking stone rather than Roman building stone.

Objects

The stone objects are all from Roman contexts, with the exception of a complete mortar (Ra. 121), which was unstratified but is most probably also of Roman date. The two finds from early Roman contexts are less repossessing, amounting to a possible grinder of quartzite (ditch fill 396) and a pebble of hard sandstone partly utilised as a whetstone (packing layer 620). Both materials could have been acquired from local Quaternary deposits. All the other objects are made from varieties of stone that had been imported to the site and are from late Roman contexts, (with the exception of the mortar) though they do not necessarily all belong exactly within that date range. Pennant sandstone, already noted in use at the site for roofing tile, could be utilised for other purposes such as sharpening and grinding, and so it was no surprise to find a fragment of paving stone re-used as a point sharpener (layer 316) and a fragment of roofing tile re-used as a whetstone (layer 516). Another whetstone fragment (stone spread 317) well worn and weathered, was made from another much used Roman whetstone material, Kentish Rag from the Lower Greensand of Kent.

There are five items made from Mendip Old Red Sandstone, most probably from a known quarry area on Beacon Hill near Shepton Mallet (Leach 1993). One of the rotary quern fragments (Ra. 081/stone spread 391) is a segment of lower stone of the thicker Iron Age/early Roman type, and so may be redeposited, while the other fragment, part of an upper stone (Ra. 111/stone spread 199), represents the typical Roman disc form. Two fitting fragments of millstone (Ra. 112/stone spread 199) and (Ra. 080/stone spread 391) have been well worn, apparently from re-use as paving. The fifth object made from Mendip Old Red Sandstone is the mortar, (Ra. 121/unstratified), which is complete and well preserved, apart from a crack on the upper surface.

Burnt stone

Some of the burnt stone clearly indicates typical prehistoric activity, since burnt limestone was found both in a Bronze Age pit (fill 166) and in an Iron Age pit (fill 105). Other burnt limestone and another 23 burnt fragments, all from Roman contexts, could well belong to these earlier phases, but cannot now be distinguished from stone that may have become burnt during the Roman phases.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for further work

The stone objects from this assemblage usefully fill a gap in the record for the western part of Wiltshire, and can also be seen to fit well with what is currently known of Roman sites in Somerset. Old Red Sandstone from the quarry at Beacon Hill on the Mendips was much used in the surrounding area (Shaffrey 2006), as for instance for querns found at Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet (Leach and Evans 2001, 235) and at Cadbury Castle (Roe 2000, 263). However the millstone appears to provide the first certain identification of one made from the Beacon Hill Old Red Sandstone, although other examples must exist. Roman mortars made from stone are not especially common and this is the first occurrence of one made from this variety of stone. The five artefacts of Beacon Hill Old Red Sandstone found at Staverton highlight the local importance of this quarry during the Roman period. By contrast, whetstones made from Kentish Rag seem to have been more or less universal during the Roman period, and are known for instance from Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet (Leach 2001, 235).

Roofing tiles of Pennant sandstone were much used in northern Somerset, reflecting the local availability of this Carboniferous sandstone. Less predictably, they also occur on a number of Roman sites in Wiltshire, and here perhaps point to the river Avon as a source of convenient transport. Jurassic limestone, as might be expected, was much used as a building stone on any site within reasonable reach of supplies, and Staverton appears to be no different in this respect. Altogether the stone assemblage from Staverton fits well with what is known from other sites in Somerset and Wiltshire. The value of this new assemblage is that it can provide more detail than is available in older reports.

Analysis task summary

Three items: mortar Ra. 121 and quern fragments Ra. 111 and Ra. 081 are recommended for illustration.

The three pieces of column and the five drain fragments need to be inspected to identify the material used for them.

A fuller discussion of the worked stone could be provided, with inclusion of further references to local sites, and this might be expected to require 2 days work.

Analysis tasks (F. Roe)
Illustration (3 items)

2.5 days (FR)
2 days (SI)

APPENDIX 11: METALLURGICAL AND OTHER RESIDUES BY VICTORIA TAYLOR

Quantities of residues deriving from metallurgical and other high temperature processes were recovered (758g). Material was recovered both by hand and from environmental bulk samples, seven of which produced residues included in this report.

Metallurgical residues were recovered from all periods with the largest concentration occurring in deposits from Period 8 (Modern). Much of the slag cannot be attributed to a specific stage of processing apart from two examples of tap slag, a dense, 'ropey'-appearing slag which is produced during smelting. Unfortunately the small amount of material recovered prevents confirmation of on-site smelting.

Residues from other high-temperature processes were also recovered, principally from Period 4 deposits (Early Roman). These mainly consist of a light, grey, vesicular slag which is often formed as the result of high temperature interaction between silicates such as clay hearth lining and alkaline fuel ash. Quantities of clinker (22g) were also recovered. Neither material can be directly related to metalworking as both can be formed as a result of any high temperature process in which the necessary components are present.

Table 10: Summary of slags by Provisional period (quantities as weight in grams)

Class	Unph.	Period 3 - Iron Age	Period 4 - Early Roman	Period 5 - Late Roman	Period 8 - Modern
Clinker			11	2	9
Fuel ash		18	444	69	16
Misc fe slag	90	1	7		57
Tap slag			18	16	

Statement of Potential and Recommendations for Further Analysis

The small quantities of material recovered and the lack of diagnostic material limit the potential of this assemblage; therefore no further work is recommended.

APPENDIX 12: GEOARCHAEOLOGY BY KEITH WILKINSON, ARCA

Introduction

Visits were made to the site of Staverton on 5 and 13 November 2007 at the request of Simon Cox of Cotswold Archaeology in order to comment on a. the potential for burial of archaeological features beneath sands and silts in the north-eastern part of the site, and b. to comment on the processes that led to the formation of a linear feature extending north-west to south-east across the site. The purpose of this document is to articulate initial ideas based on field examination of the strata exposed in plan and section.

Topographic and geological context

The Staverton site is located ~4km north-east of the town of Trowbridge. The site lies immediately to the south of a north-west to south-east trending crest marked by the present New Terrace road. The ground surface of the site slopes gently to the south and the site therefore has a southerly aspect. The north-west to south-east running ridge mentioned above terminates approximately 90m to the north west of the site and the ground thereafter slopes relatively steeply downwards to the floodplain of the River Avon. One (possibly two) fluvial terraces are visible in this slope. The British Geological Survey maps the Staverton site as sitting on 'Head' deposits, i.e. valley fill sediments having formed as a result of solifluction processes during cold stages of the Pleistocene. However, field inspection as part of the 5 and 13 November visits suggest that this mapping is incorrect and that the site is located on deposits of the Kellaway Formation (Jurassic), while the sands found in the northern part of the site may be part of the Second Avon Terrace (Pleistocene). The British Geological Survey map deposits of the Kellaway Formation within 200m of the site and the Second Avon Terrace within 500m.

Visit on 5 November 2007

At the point of the 5 November visit the excavation had been running for approximately six weeks. The whole site had been stripped by a mechanical excavator and sections had been cut across most of the archaeological features that had been exposed in plan. Deeper sections had been dug across the north-west to south-east trending feature at both ends of the trench as well as at various intermediate locations. These demonstrated that two ditches filled with later Roman artefacts were cut into an earlier feature. However, because this earlier feature had a. not been completely exposed in section (partially as a result of entry of water into the trench), and b. was of variable thickness, its genesis was not understood. As no sections that extended below the late Roman ditches were visible at the time of the visit, it was impossible to speculate on the origin of the feature and it was decided that a further visit to the site would be made at a more advanced stage of the project.

The northern (topographically the highest) part of the site was an area where burial of Neolithic (and possibly Bronze Age) features by uniform sand layers appeared to be a particular 'problem' given that a feature containing Corded Ware pottery had not been visible in the initial machine strip, but had been found in an earlier evaluation trench which had dug through the sands. Again the lack of suitable sections rendered any further stratigraphic interpretation impossible.

As a result of the 5 November visit and in consultation with the Project Officer (Neil Adam), the following series of questions were formulated:

1. What were the origins of the north-east to south-west trending feature, how did the pre-Late Roman sediment accrete and over what sort of time scale?
2. How did the ~0.1m thick layer of sand overlying the feature containing Corded Ware ceramics form and when did it accumulate?
3. Is the non-archaeological sediment into which the archaeological features were cut (and ?buried) geological or has it been redeposited? If the latter, when did this redeposition occur?

These questions would be addressed by machine excavating a number of sondages to expose the relevant sediments in section and to investigate their relationship.

Visit on 13 November 2007

During the visit of 13 November sections were cut across the north-west to south-east oriented feature where it exited the excavation trench at the north-west and south-east edges. Sand strata were also removed from the northern part of the site, but no further Neolithic or Bronze Age features were found. The feature containing Corded Ware pottery was therefore deemed to have been buried by an isolated sand lens (probably reworked from unconsolidated sands of the Second Avon Terrace in the Neolithic-Bronze Age interval).

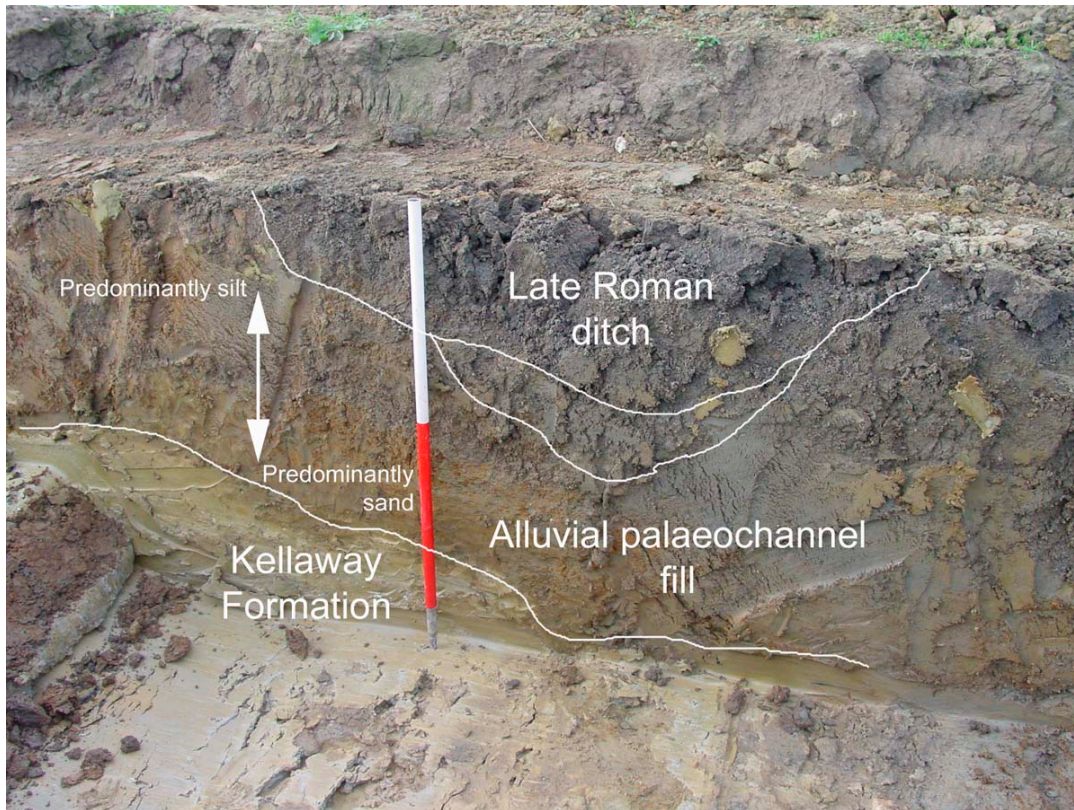


Figure 1. Section through the first palaeochannel and late Roman/post-Roman ditch in the north-west part of the site

The section across the north-west to south-east running feature in the north western part of the excavation trench demonstrated that the late Roman ditches had been cut into the top of a palaeochannel complex (Figure 1). The latter appears to have formed during at least two events and filled up mostly as a result of alluvial processes. The first palaeochannel formed in sediments of the Kellaway Formation, and the latter are the source material for much of the infilling sediments. The first palaeochannel has a fining upwards sequence ranging from primarily sand to silt-size sediments from top to bottom and from centre to edge. The fill lacks archaeological material. Iron stains decrease upwards through the fill giving the palaeochannel the superficial appearance of having undergone multiple infilling phases. However, the iron stains are entirely post-depositional and reflect the variation of water table heights at various points in the past. The first palaeochannel was about 5m wide and had been completely infilled (although it is likely that a minor depression would have been present marking its former course) before the second developed. The latter is about 2m wide and is filled with grey sands and silts. Vertical iron staining suggests that plants grew within this channel during deposition of the infilling sediment. Roman artefact finds, including some large and relatively well preserved ceramic pieces, were noted within the fill of this second palaeochannel. As with the first palaeochannel, the second seems to have been completely infilled by low energy alluvial processes before being truncated by the construction of a ditch in the late Roman period.

The sondage excavated at the south-eastern edge of the site suggests that the present manifestation of the palaeochannel complex tapers out in this direction. Indeed the southern bank is not present at all in this part of the site and the northern is only just visible as a weathered line at the surface of the Kellaway Formation. It would appear that this part of the site has suffered a greater level of post-Roman erosion than areas to the north-west. However, the sondage in the south-eastern part of the site revealed sand and flint-filled channels at the interface between the sands of the Pleistocene Second Avon Terrace and clays of the Kellaway Formation. These channels must have formed in either the Cretaceous or the Tertiary epochs (strata of these periods is not mapped by the British Geological Survey in the Trowbridge area). More significantly, the flint within the channel fills is likely to be the source of most of the unworked flint encountered on the site.

Conclusions and recommendations

Field observation of the north-west to south-east trending feature on the Staverton site suggests that it formed as an alluvial channel. It had become entirely infilled by alluvial sediments prior to any Roman activity on the site. Channel

rejuvenation took place at a time coincident with Roman activity, while deposition into the channel continued while Roman activity was ongoing. This second channel had been completely filled by the late Roman period. During the latter phase of activity or in the post-Roman period, two ditches were dug along the line of the previous palaeochannels and these were deliberately filled with Roman occupation and structural debris. In other words it would appear that if the late Roman/post Roman ditches were property markers, they were reinforcing a division that had existed during earlier phases, although the earlier demarcation was formed by an entirely natural feature.

One problem with the interpretation given above is that the palaeochannel complex has an orientation perpendicular to the present slope. This suggests that the topography of the area might have subtly changed since the Roman period and therefore that southern parts of the site have been exposed to more intense erosion processes than those in the north. An indication that this is the correct explanation is provided by the section excavated in the south-eastern part of the site on 13 November. The latter demonstrates that most of the palaeochannel complex has been eroded from the southern part of the site, and that while the northern bank just about survives, the southern has been entirely removed.

Samples were not taken during either fieldwork visit as it was not thought that they would aid field interpretation. Waterlogged deposits were not encountered during either visit. It is therefore recommended that as part of the post-excavation programme the present report is rendered in a more formal manner and is accompanied by illustrations showing the present topography.

APPENDIX 13: HUMAN BONE BY HARRIET JACKLIN

Methodology

The analysis of the human remains included age, sex, dentition, dental health, cranial and post-cranial metrics, non-metric traits and stature of all skeletal material whenever possible. Pathological analysis was also undertaken. The results were recorded using a standardised recording form created by Jacklin 2005, in line with Brickley and McKinley 2004. References used during analysis includes: Bass 1995, Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, Brothwell 1981, McKinley & Roberts 1993 and Roberts 2009. All fusion data within this report is based on Scheuer & Black 2000. Pathological literature consulted during analysis includes: Aufderheide & Rodriguez-Martin 2003, Mann & Hunt 2005, Ortner 2003, Roberts & Manchester 1995 and Roberts & Buikstra 2003.

Results

Four human burials were identified containing skeletal material: Skeleton 94 (grave cut 092), Skeleton 148 (grave cut 147), Skeleton 186 (grave cut 179) and Skeleton 397 (grave cut 179).

Skeleton 94 (grave 092) was found in a supine position with his arms folded, the left hand resting on the right side of the chest and right hand resting on left side on the pelvis. The burial was aligned south-west/north-east, with the head towards the south-west. Pottery of broad Romano-British date was recovered from within the grave fill 093. The individual was found in a very fragmentary state with approximately 25-50% of the skeleton still present for analysis, although the surviving skeletal material was in a fair state of preservation. The individual was partially damaged by machining of the excavation area and his legs and feet were disturbed due to modern disturbance.

Due to the fragmentary nature of the skeletal material, very few sex indicators survived, which is why only a 'possible male' estimate could be given, aged 42 to 50 years old. The final sex estimate was based on femoral head measurements, assessment of robusticity and the overall size of the long bones. Age was based on dental eruption, epiphyseal fusion and dental attrition. Age-related changes were also considered. The individual suffered from osteoarthritis of the right acromion-clavicular joint (severe macro and microporosity, lipping and eburnation affecting the lateral end of the right clavicle and the right acromion process) and of the left hip (severe micro- and macroporosity and eburnation affecting the right acetabular lunar surface and lipping affecting the acetabular rim, with an associated cyst present within the left femoral head measuring 29 x 23 x 13mm). No other pathological or metabolic evidence of ill health or disease was found.

Skeleton 148 (grave 147) was found buried on his right side, with his legs partially flexed and his arms flexed with the hands drawn up to the right side of his head. The burial was aligned south-west/north-east, with the head to the south-west. The individual was very poorly preserved and very fragmented, with only 50-75% of the skeleton remaining. The left side of the skeleton was damaged due to machining and modern disturbance. Finds from grave fill 146 included animal bone fragments (including a pig jaw) and half of a 3rd-century Black-Burnished Ware pot.

The individual was identified as a male aged 36 to 50 years of age. Sex was based on assessment of what was left of the pelvis (the left and right sciatic notch), the cranium and mandible (supra-orbital ridge, nuchal crest and mental eminence) and femoral head measurements. The robusticity and size of all the bones along with the presence of numerous enthesophytes were also taken into consideration. The age of the individual was based on dental eruption, epiphyseal fusion, *ante-mortem* tooth loss and age related changes. Pathological analysis revealed signs of osteophytosis (a precursor to osteoarthritis) which were found to affect the left and right big toes with the left and right distal phalanx (1) affected by severe osteophyte growth in the form of 'tuffeting'.

Skeleton 186 (grave 179) was buried in a supine position with his arms resting by his side, and his hands resting on his pelvis. Skeleton 186 was aligned north-east/south-west, with the head to the north-east. Numerous iron nails were found within the grave fill indicating the presence of coffin. Skeleton 186 was located above the grave of Skeleton 397, re-cutting Skeleton 397's grave cut [179]. The individuals were not interred at the same time as disturbance of Skeleton 397 had occurred due to the subsequent interment of Skeleton 186. Romano-British pottery was discovered within the grave fill 187/180/469. The individual was in a fair state of preservation although quite fragmented. Modern disturbance causing the removal of his lower legs led to the individual being classed as 50-75% complete.

Skeleton 186 was identified as male and aged 36 to 50 years old. The sex estimation was based on the surviving aspects of the left pelvis (ventral arch, sub pubic concavity and ischiopubic ramus ridge), the cranium and mandible (supra orbital margins, nuchal crest, mastoid processes and mental eminence) and femoral head measurements. The age of the individual was based on dental eruption, dental attrition, *ante mortem* tooth loss and alvolar bone re-absorption, epiphyseal fusion, cranial suture closure and age related changes. Pathological analysis revealed the individual suffered from cribra orbitalia (large pin like lesions affecting the left and right orbit), a metabolic disorder

indicating possible iron deficiency anaemia and more broadly, symptomatic of ill health and nutritional deficiencies. The disorder was active at the time of the individuals' death. The individual also suffered from osteophytosis (early osteoarthritis) of the right shoulder (severe lipping affecting the right glenoid fossa and porosity affecting the right humeral head) and left hip (lipping and microporosity affecting the left femoral head and acetabular rim). Osteoarthritis of the right hip (severe osteophyte growth and microporosity and macroporosity affecting the right femoral head, fovea capitis and the right acetabulum) was also present.

Skeleton 397 (grave 179) was buried in a supine position, aligned south-west/north-east, below Skeleton 186. The head was to the south-west. Numerous iron nails were found within the grave fill indicating the presence of coffin. Hob nails were recovered from the area surrounding the skeleton's feet. Romano-British pottery was recovered from within the grave fill 187/180/469. Skeleton 397 was found in a good state of preservation but was incomplete (75%) due to the removal of the cranium by modern disturbance.

The individual was classed as an adolescent, aged between 16 to 17 years old. The sex was not assessed due the lack of sexual maturity and sexual dimorphism of the skeletal material. The age of the individual was based on dental eruption and epiphyseal fusion. No pathological or metabolic changes were found affecting the individual.

Discussion

The four inhumations were found in close proximity to an Early Roman field system, which may have remained as visible earthworks during the Late Roman period. Skeleton 94, Skeleton 186 and Skeleton 397 were grouped towards the centre of the site close to the southern terminus of ditch 420, whilst Skeleton 148 was located close to the western edge of the field system.

The reason for the burial of Skeleton 186 above Skeleton 397 is unclear. Given that space was available for the individuals to be buried separately, a possible family relationship or social connection should not be ruled out. Radiocarbon dating of the skeletal remains may be undertaken to establish dates between the subsequent interments, as all individuals, although fragmented, are viable for radiocarbon dating. The decision to do so is dependent upon the original research objectives stated in the updated project design, and whether tight dating can be gained without the need for dating the skeletal material.

Further Recommendations

A detailed discussion of the four inhumations featured in this report will follow, putting the material in its regional context, following the completion of the stratigraphic analysis and dating programme.

APPENDIX 14 ANIMAL BONE BY SYLVIA WARMAN

Introduction

The animal bone included in this assessment was hand-collected during excavations in 2007; additional material was recovered from the residues of processed bulk samples.

Material

The hand-collected animal bone totalled 4147 bone fragments from 3143 bones weighing 29kg, of these 585 bones were identifiable to species. The animal bone was fairly well-preserved but highly fragmented. The animal bone recovered from the processed samples weighed 119g and included six identifiable to specimens. The animal bone from the samples was derived from the volumes processed for assessment; this was 10 litres from each environmental sample and the 100% of burial and cremation samples.

Method

Animal bone was recovered from deposits assigned to all of the Provisional Periods although the larger part was from Periods 3, 4, 5 (Iron Age and Roman). It is apparent from the pottery (McSloy pers.com.) that there may be significant mixing of Iron Age and Roman material within deposits compounded by the intrusion of medieval material in some deposits. The identification and separation of the intrusive and residual contributions has not yet been fully established. A rapid assessment of the assemblage has been undertaken. The hand-collected animal bone is summarised in Table 11. The table makes use of the counts and weights recorded during quantification, with the addition of a brief description of the species and elements present and a count of specimens potentially identifiable to species. The animal bone recovered from the processed samples is broadly quantified by code rather than count (Table 2).

This information has been summarized by Period and a short assessment report compiled. Only deposits from features which produce exceptional or noteworthy animal bone assemblages are described in detail. Animal bone from Periods 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 is included in the assessment. These are largely modern intrusions and field drains. The small quantity of animal bone Period 8 deposits recovered from fills of modern intrusions and field drains is of limited archaeological significance and has not been included in this assessment. Unstratified material is not considered.

Results

Period 1

Only one deposit assigned to Period 1 produced animal bone, the secondary fill of pit 048. The fragmented bone was not identified to species but had been burnt, revealed by white colouration.

Period 2

Four deposits dated to Period 2 produced animal bone. Cattle and sheep/goat were identified the remainder classified as cow-sized and sheep-sized. Butchery, burning, weathering and root-etching were noted. The latter is a form of damage to the bone surface from contact with the roots of growing plants. Sample 64 from deposit 691, a shallow linear feature, included a pig tooth and cow-sized and sheep-sized long bone fragments which had been chopped.

Period 3

Seventeen Period 3 deposits produced animal bone: including a possible cremation. The species identified were cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Teeth and foot bones were most frequent but some meat-bearing limb bones from cattle and sheep were also present. The pig remains were from predominantly juvenile specimens. Butchery and burning were noted as was weathering (erosion of the bone surface). Three samples produced animal bone which comprised a sheep kneecap, mandible and toe, a cow-sized rib, a chicken-sized coracoid (part of the shoulder) and vertebra and an amphibian vertebra (probably frog or toad). Some fragments had been burnt and were grey or black in colour.

Period 4

A large assemblage of animal bone was recovered from 48 deposits. Feature types included ditches and gullies, a palaeochannel and some pits and layers. The species identified comprised red deer, horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Most species show a range of body parts. The red deer is represented by a single antler from 665 the fill of a NE–SW orientated ditch. No bones identified as dog were recovered but the presence of this species is indicated by gnaw marks on bones seen widely in the Period 4 assemblage. Five samples from Period 5 produced animal bone, however only one fragment, a sheep tarsal, was identified; the remainder was too fragmented and is described as sheep-sized long bone fragments and unidentified fragments.

Period 5

The largest animal bone assemblage from any Period at the site, recovered from 49 deposits. These included two very extensive layers, firstly 317 a stone spread across ditches 600 and 603 and secondly 316 a dark spread that covered 317. Animal bone was also recovered from the fills of graves, one of which (148) contained a substantial part of a dog skeleton. The species identified included dog, horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. A range of elements is seen for most species. The cattle and pig remains included some from juvenile individuals. A total of eight samples from deposits dating to Period 5 produced animal bone but only one fragment, part of a frog limb bone, was identified; the remainder was too fragmented and is described as sheep-sized long bone, cat-sized rib and unidentified fragments.

Period 6

Only one deposit provisionally dated to Period 6 contained animal bone occupation layer 635 which contained a cattle toe and unidentified fragments which showed signs of weathering.

Period 7

The fill of a linear feature (056) and a clay layer (395) produced animal bone; this comprised cattle and sheep teeth, the remainder was too fragmented to identify and is described as cow-sized and sheep-sized.

Age/Sex

Most of the specimens are from adult or sub-adult animals. Cattle and pig bones include specimens from juvenile animals. The red deer antler is from a male as the hinds in this species do not develop antlers. Pig canines also reveal the presence of males (boars).

Bone Modification

In terms of preservation, weathering was noted in many deposits, gnawing by dogs was also common. Root etching was also observed but was general only a mild degree. No specimens showing pathological changes were observed. Two specimens showed signs of having been worked. A small fragment from layer 316 had been shaped and may be a fragment of a hair pin. It is not apparent what element form which species the item was derived from. A sheep metatarsal from layer 317 has a circular hole pieced in the anterior articular surface (see also Appendix * - Metal and Worked bone).

Discussion

Cattle and sheep/goat are present in the assemblages from Periods 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Pig is also present in Period 3, 4 and 5. Horse is present only in Periods 4 and 5. Dog remains are positively identified in Period 5 but signs of their presence is indicated in other Periods by tooth marks from gnawing. The red deer antler from Period 4 is the only evidence for this species. Although pig remains are seen in Periods 3, 4 and 5 some specimens are very large and may derive from wild boar such as the astragalus (ankle bone) from layer 380. The frequency of mild and moderate weathering and gnaw marks from dogs suggest that some of the animal bone must have been left exposed for a short period prior to burial. The frequency of chop marks and bones which had been chopped right though is such that the assemblage is likely to be mainly derived from butchery or household waste. The age profiles of the domestic species are those expected for a consumer rather than producer site. No infant or new born animal remains were found so there is no evidence for stock-rearing, although this may conflict with the interpretation of the ditches as parts of enclosures?

Some deposits are less mundane, the dog skeleton from Grave fill 148 is complete enough to suggest that it was whole at the time of deposition which begs the question, was it deliberately placed?

Recommendations

The small assemblages from Periods 1, 2, 6 and 7 require no further work but the results of this assessment should be summarised within the publication.

Full analysis of the animal bone from Periods 3, 4 and 5 is recommended, with a focus on deposits that are deemed to be discrete and secure. Within Period 5 a substantial part of the assemblage was recovered from two extensive layers 317 and 316, how discrete are these deposits?

Possible themes for investigation include;

- changes in the use of domestic animals through time, species and elements present and changes in butchery methods.
- A number of complete limb bones from cattle may enable the size of horse and cattle to be calculated. Are any changes through time apparent?
- The possibility that the dog skeleton in deposit 148 may have been part of burial practise.

Time requirements

Periods 3, 4 and 5 include 575 identifiable specimens. Identification/recording 5 days, analysis/reporting 5 days.

Summaries of assessment data periods 1, 2, 6 and 7 – 0.5 days.

Total 10.5 days.

Word count 1200, Tables 2

Note on recommendations for sampled material

Animal bone recovered from the samples shows a very limited range of species, most of which have been identified in the hand-collected assemblage. Animal bone from samples which can be identified to species and are from deposits where the hand-collected material is recommended for further study should be included in further work. Those which produced fragmented material not identified to species do not require any further work.

Table 11

Provisional Period	no of fragments	no of bones	weight	No of bones identified to species	Species Present
Period 1 – Early Bronze Age	1	1	1	0	
Period 2 - Bronze Age	25	23	152	5	Cattle, sheep/goat
Period 3 - Iron Age	127	104	559	13	Cattle, sheep/goat, pig
Period 4 - Early Roman	1069	752	6270	131	Red deer, horse, cattle, sheep/goat, pig
Period 5 - Late Roman	2825	2169	21545	433	Dog, horse, cattle, sheep/goat, pig
Period 6 - Saxon	2	2	8	1	Sheep/goat
Period 7 - medieval	98	92	79	2	Cattle, sheep/goat

Table 12 Animal bones recovered from samples Periods 2-5

Provisional Period	Fill of	Context	sample	quantity	weight	number of bones id to species	des
Period 2 - Bronze Age	690	691	64	D	12	1	very worn pig upper incisor cow-sized lone bone chond
Period 3 - Iron Age	580	581	52	D	17	3	sheep mandible patella a sized vertebra frog-sized
Period 3 - Iron Age	580	582	53	D	8	0	Cow-sized rib sheep-size coracoid ancient and mo fragments burnt white gr
Period 3 - Iron Age	658	660	60	E	1	0	Unidentified fragments
Period 4 - Early Roman	617	618	55	E	1	0	Unidentified fragments b
Period 4 - Early Roman	479	480	46	E	3	0	unidentified fragments
Period 4 - Early Roman	607	608	54	D	3	1	sheep tarsal and unident white
Period 4 - Early Roman	507	508	45	D	3	0	Sheep-sized long bone f and black
Period 4 - Early Roman	481	482	43	E	1	0	Unidentified fragments
Period 5 - Late Roman	179	186	6	D	2	0	Sheep-sized long bone a some burnt black, white
Period 5 - Late Roman	334	329	27	E	1	0	Unidentified fragments b
Period 5 - Late Roman	211	236	15	E	1	0	Unidentified fragments
Period 5 - Late Roman	327	314	23	E	1	0	Unidentified fragments b
Period 5 - Late Roman	147	146	11	B	40	0	Cat-sized rib fragment c fragment and unidentifie
Period 5 - Late Roman	692	693	63	D	6	0	Unidentified fragments s
Period 5 - Late Roman	179	186	6	C	6	1	frog limb unidentified ma
Period 5 - Late Roman	242	237	16	E	1	0	unidentified fragments

Key to quantity codes E = 1-10 fragments, D = 10-50 C = 50-100, B = 100-200, A = 200+

APPENDIX 14: CHARCOAL BY DANA CHALLINOR

Introduction

Charcoal was submitted for assessment from 38 samples. Eight bags of hand-collected charcoal were also examined. The majority of the samples were from ditches, pits and ovens of Romano-British date, with some Iron and Bronze Age features. The charcoal was scanned under a binocular microscope at up to x45 magnification. Charcoal caught on a 2mm sieve was considered identifiable and quantified; fragments were randomly extracted, fractured only if necessary and examined in transverse section. The potential of each sample to provide suitable radiocarbon dating material was noted.

Results

The flots were small, consisting mainly of sediment and comminuted charcoal flecks. The rate of flotation had been poor, since some residues produced large quantities of charcoal which had not floated. Many fragments were infused or covered with sediment, which may account for the poor flotation, and also hampered the assessment. The deposits from graves (92, 147, 179) and ditches (479, 481, 507) were particularly deficient in charcoal, with only occasional fragments identified. The pit and oven samples were much richer, as might be expected (Table 13). A range of taxa was identified, including provisional identifications of *Quercus* sp. (oak), *Alnus/Corylus* (alder/hazel), Salicaceae (willow family), *Prunus* sp. (cherry/blackthorn), Maloideae (hawthorn, apple, pear etc.) *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) and *Acer* sp. (maple). Several of the samples contained a number of small diameter stem fragments. The hand-collected charcoal was neither numerous nor indicated any taxa different to those identified in the samples.

Radiocarbon dating potential

Material from the richer samples suitable for radiocarbon (AMS) dating are indicated in Table 1. Some less productive samples did contain material suitable for radiocarbon (AMS) dating from features 048, 179, 327, 334, 479, 507, 607 and 658.

Discussion

In general, the paucity and/or small size of the fragments limits the potential for useful interpretation of the charcoal from most of the samples. Those with reasonable assemblages of charcoal were dominated by three features; Iron Age burnt pit 580 and Late Roman ovens 211 and 242. All of these features produced well-preserved charcoal in large quantities. Interestingly, all appeared to be dominated by a single taxon; oak in the Iron Age pit, and ash in the Roman features. The other features from these periods produced much less charcoal and the species composition appeared to be more mixed. This observation is worth exploring further as analysis will confirm and extend the species list, providing a dataset with which to examine the selection of fuelwood for different activities and place the results within the regional context. In addition, the stem fragments should be investigated for evidence of woodland management.

Recommendations

Some analysis on the richer samples listed in Table 13 is recommended, and the exact selection of the samples to be confirmed in discussion with the excavator, when phasing and context analysis are finalised. The scope of the analysis will be limited since there is a narrow taxonomic range in many of the samples.

Estimate

Identification of Bronze/Iron Age samples (2)	1 day
Identification of Roman oven/pit samples (3)	1 day
Production of report	1 day
Total	3 days
Total cost @ £175/day	£525

Estimated word count : c 800

Number of tables: 1

Number of figures: 1

Table 13: Results of the charcoal assessment, showing samples with charcoal suitable for analysis

Provisional Period	Fill of	Context no	Sample	Context type	Flot	Residue	Ids	Analysis	C14 potential
Period 2 – BA	690	691	064	Occupation layer		+++	Maloideae, <i>Prunus</i> , Mixed	B	Y
Period 3 – IA	580	581	052	burnt pit fill	++++	++++	<i>Quercus</i> predom.	A	N
Period 3 – IA	580	582	053	burnt pit fill	+++	++++	<i>Quercus</i> (r/w) predom.	A	N
Period 5 – LR	211	235	014	Oven fill		++++	<i>Fraxinus</i> (r/w), predom.	B	Y
Period 5 – LR	211	240	018	Oven fill	++++	++	<i>Fraxinus</i> (r/w), predom.	A	Y
Period 5 – LR	211	241	019	Oven fill	+	++++	<i>Fraxinus</i> (r/w), predom.	A	Y
Period 5 – LR	211	234	013	Oven fill	+	++++	<i>Fraxinus</i> (r/w)	B	Y
Period 5 – LR	211	236	015	Oven fill		+++	<i>Fraxinus</i> , Maloideae (r/w)	B	Y
Period 5 – LR	242	243	020	Oven fill		++++	Maloideae, (r/w), Salicaceae, Mixed, mostly diffuse	A	Y
Period 5 – LR	242	237	016	Oven fill		+++	Maloideae, (r/w), <i>Acer</i> , mostly diffuse	A	Y
Period 5 – LR	692	693	063	Pit fill		+++	<i>Quercus</i> , Maloideae	B	Y

+ = present; ++ = occasional; +++ = common; ++++ = abundant; h-w = heartwood, r-w = roundwood

APPENDIX 15: CHARRED PLANT REMAINS BY WENDY CARRUTHERS

Introduction

In 2007 excavations were carried out by Cotswold Archaeology on a multi-period site at New Terrace, Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Soil samples were taken from a range of contexts for the recovery of environmental information. Features sampled included an Early Bronze Age pit, an Iron Age pit and ditches, Early Roman ditches and Late Roman graves, ovens and pits. Details of the samples taken are provided in Table 14.

Samples were processed using standard methods of floatation by Cotswold Archaeology staff. A 250 micron mesh was used to recover the flots and a 1mm mesh was used to retain the residues. Dried flots and three residues were sent to the author for assessment. The results of the assessment are presented in Table 14, along with recommendations for further analysis. Large charcoal has already been removed and sent to the charcoal specialist, Dana Challinor.

Following observations concerning the charred plant assemblages are only preliminary notes, and identifications are at present provisional. Many of the remains were poorly preserved and encrusted with clay particles, so identification was often difficult. During full analysis, cleaning may help to improve identification levels and reveal a wider range of small chaff fragments and weed seeds. During rapid scanning at the assessment stage these items are difficult to spot and may be under-estimated. In general it was notable that chaff was scarce in all periods, but weed seeds were sometimes frequent and grain preservation was not always poor.

The local soils consisted of Kellaway clay and weathered sandy clay, and this has caused silt impregnation of much of the charred plant material. Encrusted remains do not float well, as the checking of three residues (samples 2, 16 and 53) confirmed. Small charcoal fragments were abundant in samples 16 and 53, and both poor grain fragments and a chaff fragment were observed in the residues. This means that it is vital that residues are checked by the author, since less easily spotted chaff may be inaccurately recorded as absent if residues are not scanned. These recommendations are noted in the table. It is particularly important to check residues of productive samples, to make sure that crop processing waste is not overlooked.

Results

Period 1: Early Bronze Age

The very small sample (s.2) from this pit fill produced only a couple of weed seeds and nothing dateable was present.

Period 2: Bronze Age

Sample 64 from a small linear feature produced a barley grain that may be too poor to date. If the residue is checked one or two more remains may be found, or charcoal large enough for dating.

Period 3: Iron Age

Samples 52, 53, 59 and 60 came from fills 581 and 582 of pit 580 and from fill 659 of a ring ditch 658. Although the ring ditch produced nothing, the residues could be checked. Pit 580 produced a useful assemblage of reasonably well preserved hulled barley with frequent weed seeds, including dock seeds, sedges, grasses and cleavers.

Period 4: Early Roman

Six Early Roman ditch fill samples were assessed. A couple of barley grains and an emmer/spelt grain were observed. Further soil is available for processing in sample 46, and some of the residues could contain identifiable material. Since no chaff fragments or weed seeds have been observed yet it is impossible to know whether cereals were being grown locally or imported to the area as processed grain. Further work may make the situation clearer.

Period 5: Late Roman

Twenty-three pit, grave and oven fills were examined. Several samples contained poorly preserved cereal grains, including frequent wheat grains (possibly both free-threshing wheat and hulled wheat). A few weed seeds and a single chaff fragment were observed. It is important that any soil remaining from these samples is processed using the double floatation method (recommended for clay soils), i.e. the soil is re-floated repeatedly until no further charred remains float. The residues are fully air-dried and then are re-floated. If possible a 500 micron mesh should be used for the residues, since small heavy charred remains could be lost during the first floatation.

Residues should be checked wherever possible, since chaff may not float well.

Recommendations for Further Work

Table 14 shows that all of the remaining soil (12 samples) and most of the residues (17 samples) should be included in the analysis. The amount of charred grain recovered so far is not great, but double floatation and residue checking may improve recovery rates. Comparisons can then be made with other sites in the area to see

whether the local clay soils were being cultivated, or whether grain was being brought to the area fully processed. Comparisons with Roman large scale spelt cultivation on clay soils can be made (Carruthers, 2008)

If processing is carried out by Cotswold Archaeology, residue and flot sorting, analysis, report writing will take the author 12 days @ £150 per day (rising to £160 in April 2009).

Radiocarbon dating

Where indicated in Table 14, it is unlikely that large enough charcoal fragments or cereal grains are available for dating. However, in view of the recovery problems some material may still be present in the residues and unprocessed soil. Where reasonably preserved grains are noted in the table, it is recommended that these are dated.

A note on sub-sampling for assessments

Since environmental samples are already minute subsamples of the original deposits, it is recommended that the full quantity of soil is processed prior to assessment, rather than a subsample. Small quantities of soil cannot provide a realistic impression of the potential of the deposit. Subsampling also rarely saves time and money, as 6 litres of soil takes virtually the same time to process as 10 litres of soil. Also, firm decisions can be made by the specialist on the basis of the available evidence, rather than provisional impressions, not knowing whether richer patches of burning remain in the unprocessed part of the sample. English Heritage will shortly be amending their recommendations to this effect, suggesting that all the available soil should be processed prior to assessment (at least up to 40 litres per sample).

Table 14: Details of samples

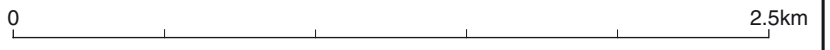
Sample	Context no	Fill of	Provisional Period	Context type	Description	Total volume	Volume processed	Charred plant remains	Wood charcoal	Sample comments
002	053	048	Period 1 - Early Bronze Age	Pit fill	Primary fill of pit	1	1	1 small grass (Poaceae) seed; 1 small weed seed (Asteraceae) embryo	trace	<5ml flot, mainly silt. RESIDUE scanned - trace poor encrusted char only
006	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	25	25	emmer/spelt glume base +; long-seeded Poaceae ++	trace	10ml mainly silt
007	093	092	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Backfill of grave	1	1	1 small Poaceae frag.	trace	<5ml silty flot
008	093	092	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Backfill of grave	2	2	nil	trace	<5ml, freq small bone frags
009	093	092	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Backfill of grave	1	1	NO FLOT SENT		
010	146	147	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Backfill of grave	4	4	nil	trace	<5ml flot, occ bone frag, modern uncharred seed
011	146	147	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Backfill of grave	7	7	nil	trace	<5ml flot, small bone frags, freq silt
012	146	147	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Backfill of grave	6	6	cf. small Poaceae frag 1	trace	<5ml flot, silt
013	234	211	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Secondary fill of oven	30	2	1 self-heal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>)	a few small/medium frags	<5ml flot, silt
014	235	211	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Secondary fill of oven	30	4	nil	trace	<5ml flot, silt & dark stained silt, trace small char
015	236	211	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Secondary fill of oven	10	4	several poor grain ++ (includes emmer/spelt, possible bread wheat, oat/chess,) wild radish capsule (<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>)+; 2-3mm vetch (<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.)	occ small char	5ml flot, silt & small charcoal. Grain vacuolated & fragmented.

016	237	242	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Fill of shallow pit	10	6	++/+++ poor grain & weed seeds, as above	trace	8ml flot, encrusted & fragmented. RESIDUE- freq poor charcoal & some poor cereal frags
018	240	211	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Primary fill of oven	10	4	++ poor NFI wheat; + chess frag	c. 5 frags diffuse porous charcoal	20ml flot, freq small char
019	241	211	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Primary fill of oven	10	4	+ poor wheat grain, + Apiaceae cf. Bupleurum-type; + Vicia/Lathyrus; + Odontites/Euphrasia	occ small/medium char	10ml flot, freq small char
020	243	242	Period 5 - Late Roman	Pit fill	Fill of pit	20	5	++ poor grain, NFI wheat	trace	5ml flot, silt & small charcoal. Grain vacuolated & fragmented.
023	314	327	Period 5 - Late Roman	Oven fill	Fill of pit	7	5	nil	trace	<5ml flot, silt, rootlets
027	329	334	Period 5 - Late Roman	Pit fill	Fill of pit	10	8	nil	trace	<5ml flot, modern Betula seeds
030	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	2	2	nil	freq small char	<5ml silty flot
031	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	2	2	nil	trace	<5ml silty flot, small bone frags
032	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	2	2	1 small Poaceae	trace	<5ml flot, bone frags, silt
038	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	2	1	nil	occ sm/med char	<5ml flot, modern Carex,

039	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	2	2	nil	trace	<5ml flot, silt
040	180	179	Period 5 - Late Roman	Grave fill	Fill of grave cut containing a large number of nails	2	2	1 small Poaceae; 1 cf. Juncus (rush)	trace	<5ml, silt
042	482	481	Period 4 - Early Roman	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch	2	2	nil	trace	<5ml flot, rootlets
043	482	481	Period 4 - Early Roman	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch	2	2	1 barley grain	trace	5ml silty flot
045	508	507	Period 4 - Early Roman	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch	1	1	nil	trace	<5ml flot, silt
046	480	479	Period 4 - Early Roman	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch	30	9	nil	trace	<5ml silty flot
052	581	580	Period 3 - Iron Age	Pit fill	Fill of pit	18	18	++ poor hulled barley; several weed seeds (dock, valerian, sedge, grass, cleavers)	30ml large blocky oak frags	50ml flot with freq charcoal
053	582	580	Period 3 - Iron Age	Pit fill	Fill of pit	16	16	++ good hulled barley, +dock; ++poor vacuolated grain	30ml large blocky oak frags	50ml, white slaggy frags, burnt bone. RESIDUE - emmer/spelt glume base, freq charcoal
054	608	607	Period 4 - Early Roman	Ring gully	Fill of ring ditch terminus	9	9	+emmer/spelt grain; +hulled barley	occ medium char	10ml silty flot
055	618	617	Period 4 - Early Roman	Ring ditch	Fill of ring ditch	9	9	nil	occ small char	5ml silty flot
059	659	658	Period 3 - Iron Age	Ring gully	Primary fill of ditch	9	9	nil	trace	5ml silty flot
060	660	658	Period 3 - Iron Age	Ring gully	Secondary fill of ditch	9	9	nil	occ small char	5ml silty flot
063	693	692	Period 5 - Late Roman	Pit fill	Fill of pit	20	9	nil	trace	<5ml flot
064	691	690	Period 2 - Bronze Age	Occupation layer	Fill of shallow linear feature	8	8	1 poor barley; 1 small Poaceae	trace	10ml flot, uncharred modern seeds

110	146	NOT LISTED	nil	occ small char	5ml silty flot, freq small bone
207	243	NOT LISTED	nil	trace	<5ml silty flot

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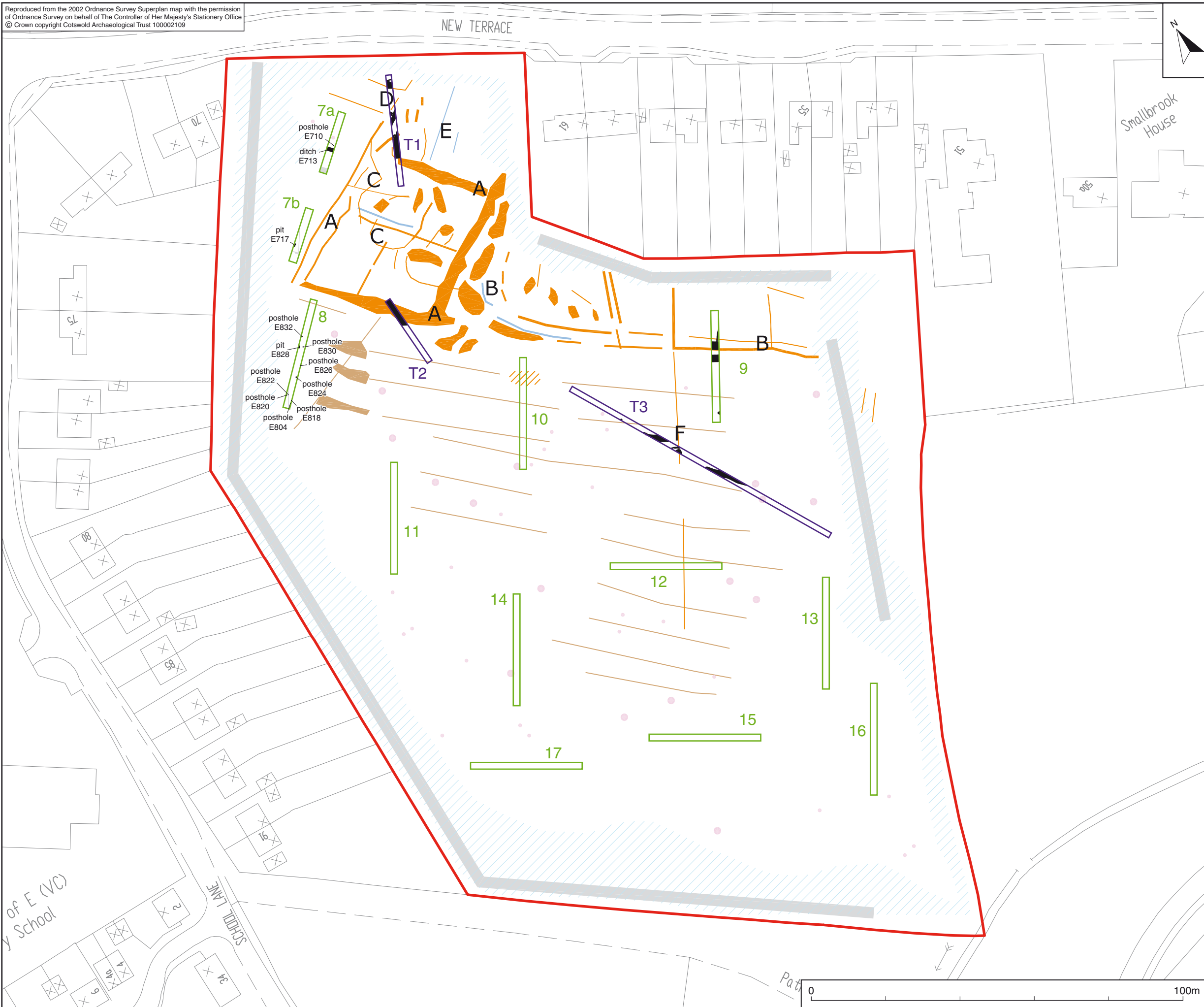


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
Land south of New Terrace
Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY RK	SCALE 1:25,000@A4	PROJECT NO. 9075	FIGURE NO. 1
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- ▬ site
- ▬ CA 2004 evaluation trench
- ▬ CAT 2002 evaluation trench
- ▬ archaeological features
- ▬ modern services
- ▬ positive linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- ▬ positive linear anomaly - cut feature of possible archaeological origin
- ▬ negative linear anomaly - remains of ?earthwork/embankment
- ▨ area of positive response - cut feature of possible archaeological origin
- ▨ area of magnetic disturbance
- strong discrete positive anomaly with negative return - ferrous object
- ▬ service

PROJECT TITLE
**Land south of New Terrace
 Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**Site plan showing previous evaluation
 trenches and geophysical survey results**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:1000@A3	9075	2



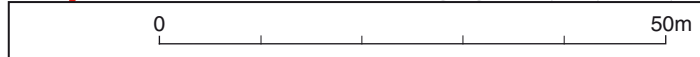
- site boundary
 - excavation area
 - evaluation trench and archaeological features
 - approximate line of palaeochannels
- Period:**
- 1 Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age
 - 2 Bronze Age
 - 3 Iron Age
 - 4 Early Roman
 - 5 Late Roman
 - 6 Anglo Saxon
 - 7 medieval
 - 8 modern
 - 9 undated



PROJECT TITLE
Land south of New Terrace
Staverton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site plan showing archaeological deposits

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:750@A3	9075	3



ST