Archaeological Excavation of an Iron Age Settlement at Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville, Somerset, TA11 6ES

Interim Report

Drone photograph of the 2020 Keinton Mandeville archaeological excavation areas, mid-way through the fieldwork. Ecological corridor to the right of the photograph, and Lakeview Quarry housing development is shown at the top, within the former Blue Lias quarry. North to the left.

Hollinrake Archaeology Co-Op

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On behalf of: Galion Homes Ltd
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Grid Reference: ST 5455 3040
Hollinrake Archaeology Site Code: KML20
PRN numbers: 14200, 11674, 28510, 28319, 34768, 32316, 45106
SWHT Accession number: TTNCM 8 / 2016
Planning permission number: 19/03538/FUL

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Volume I – Interim Excavation Report

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1.0 Non-Technical Summary

1.1 Galion Homes Ltd. were granted planning permission to build 42 homes on the disused site of Lake View Quarry, Keinton Mandeville, which ceased operations in the early 21st century. The developers submitted a further planning application for the addition of a line of 3 new dwellings, and a new café along the eastern edge of the undisturbed field at the western part of the site known as 'West Field'.

1.2 Hollinrake Archaeology (HAC) were commissioned to excavate the exposed remains of an agricultural Romano-British stone building, and conduct a watching brief on the excavation of four ecological ponds in advance of the development of the site during 2017 (PRN 34768 - HAC Report No.530). The housing development commenced on the site in 2018.

1.3 Hollinrake Archaeology were subsequently commissioned to undertake the archaeological excavation of four open areas, prior to the construction of the aforementioned 3 dwellings and café. The four archaeological excavation areas measured approximately 200m² each.

1.4 Several broad, medieval ridge and furrow plough scars were recorded crossing through the excavation areas; and the uppermost deposit consisted of ploughsoil throughout the project area.

1.5 The north and eastern portion of a second, ruined Romano-British stone building was uncovered on the site, lying around 20m to the east of the Romano-British barn which was the subject of the 2017 excavation. The two buildings were parallel, and appeared to have corresponding dimensions at ca.8m wide x 16m long, although the build quality of the herringbone coursed masonry, and state of preservation of the building excavated in 2020 was inferior to the building excavated in 2017. The remnants of a well-constructed, originally culverted, stone lined drain crossed through the excavation area between the two stone buildings on the same orientation, which had been purposefully, partially demolished, probably during either the late or sub-Roman period.

1.6 Romano-British activity on this part of the site appeared to have been primarily agricultural. Only six Roman coins were recovered, and fragments of jewellery from the period were only collected in a couple of instances. The Romano-British pottery assemblage was characterised by Black Burnished Wares, and finer wares such as Samian Ware were only encountered in rare instances. Pits and postholes from the period tended to be clustered around the two stone buildings, with the reduced base of a midden lying equidistant between them. The eastern terminus of a shallow boundary ditch which spanned the LIA to RB periods was also excavated. Only 8 pits and 5 postholes have been currently solidly dated to the Romano-British period from initial pottery analysis. These features represent around 10% of the total features excavated during the project.

1.7 The excavation results indicate that an Iron Age settlement was well established on the site prior to the Roman invasion. Portions of three separate eaves drip gullies extended into the archaeological dig areas. One infant and one adult inhumation were exhumed, which are currently believed to date to between 1st century BCE - 1st century CE. The majority of the Iron Age features consisted of two substantial storage pits, a further 46 pits and 65 postholes. Tens of kilograms of Iron Age pottery have been collected from the site, which are likely to comprise a valuable archaeological resource for the region.

1.8 The isolated discovery of 32 sherds from a Neolithic Grooved Ware vessel, weighing slightly less than 1kg, within a small pit, has raised the prospect that the site might have been subject to a greater intensity of activity than previously conceived, during the centuries prior to the 1st millennium BCE. The Neolithic and Bronze Age periods are otherwise represented by the deposition of flint flakes, and tools including scrapers, leaf shaped arrowheads and blades, which were commonly encountered throughout the dig, but not in abundant quantities.

1.9 Introduction - Planning

1.9.1 Planning permissions 14/01333/OUT and 16/01832/REM were granted by South Somerset District Council to Galion Homes Ltd for… "redevelopment and restoration of Lake View Quarry, Somerset, TA11 6ES in order to provide 42 dwellings and 1,000 sq metres of workspace for B1(offices) use and associated community and recreation facilities."

1.9.2 Galion Homes Ltd, were subsequently granted planning permission for the erection of a cafe/ work hub and three additional dwellings to the development by South Somerset District Council (planning permission number 19/03538/FUL) subject to the following conditions.

1.9.3 Condition 9

The submitted archaeological Written Scheme of Work (Archaeological Investigation for Lakeview, Keinton Mandeville, Hollinrake Archaeology Co-op) shall be strictly complied with. A second stage of archaeological mitigation must be submitted to and agreed in writing prior to the development hereby permitted being carried out. The agreed mitigation must then be carried out either prior to or during the development as relevant.

1.9.4 Condition 10.

No building shall be occupied until the site archaeological investigation has been completed and post-excavation analysis has been initiated in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation approved under the POW condition and the financial provision made for analysis, dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

1.9.5 *Reason: To safeguard the archaeological potential of the site in accordance with policy EQ3 of the South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028* (South Somerset District Council, 2020).

1.10 Aims & Objectives

1.10.1 The archaeological methodology and programme of works have been designed in accordance with Hollinrake Archaeology Written Scheme of Investigation WSI - W20/0103B, to satisfy Planning Permission Conditions 9 & 10 (see above).

1.10.2 The project contributes to South Western Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) - Research Aims 1f, 3l, 10e, 14, 17b, 29a, 29c, 40, 41.

Figure 1. Local area map. Red star marks the site location.
Contains Ordnance Survey data and database rights 2018. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

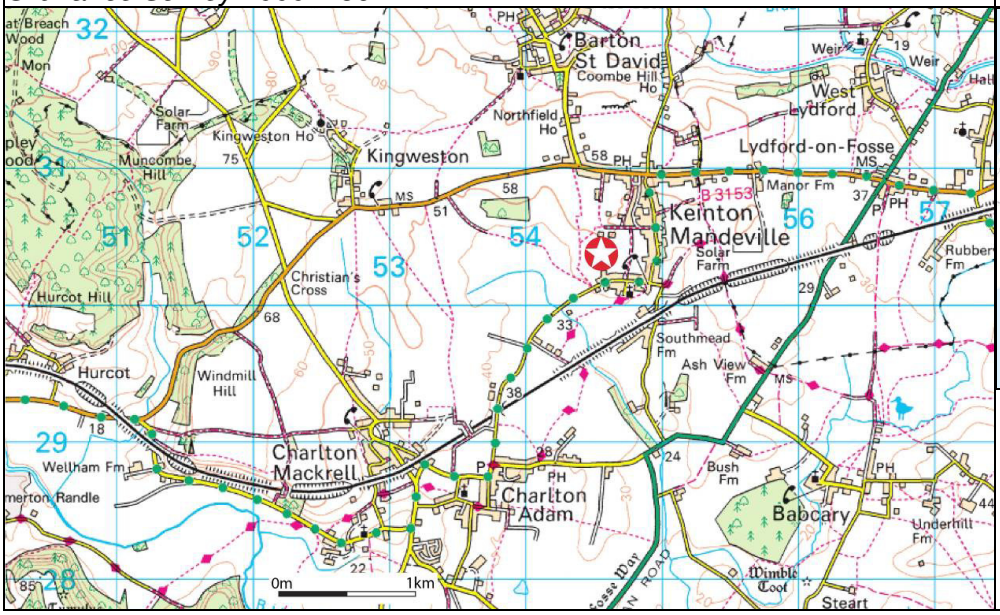


Figure2. National location map.

Figure 3.

Developers plan of the Lakeview Development with the addition of the café and three new dwellings along the eastern edge of West Field.

The Romano-British building excavated in 2017 is indicated at the south-east corner of the field, and the ecological ponds which were archaeologically monitored during the same project are highlighted blue.

2.0 Topography and Geology

2.1 Keinton Mandeville is a village and civil parish near to the south-eastern border of Somerset, in the South Somerset District. The village is situated on top of Combe Hill at a mean elevation of 50m above Ordnance Datum. Historic Keinton Mandeville it lies approximately one mile south-west of the River Brue and two miles north-east of the River Cary approximately six miles west of the market town of Castle Cary, and one mile west of Lydford-on-Fosse, straddling the Fosse Way Roman Road (presently the A37).

2.2 The archaeological excavation was sited within a historically known as 'West Field', which occupies an area of raised ground called 'King's Hill' (Figure 13), immediately west of the disused Lakeview Blue Lias Quarry, towards the south-west corner of Keinton Mandeville, centred upon national grid reference ST 5455 3040. The site lies at a mean elevation of 48.00m above Ordnance Datum, from which is slopes down to the south, east and west.

2.3 The site geology lies upon a large expanse of Blue Lias of the Langport Member, interbedded with Mudstone of the Charmouth Formation. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 183 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic periods. They are detrital and biogenic, generally comprising fine-grained sediments, with coral and shell fragments forming interbedded sequences (British Geological Survey, 2021) Ichthyosaur and plesiosaur remains have been collected from the Keinton Mandeville Lias beds. The Lias stone beds of the lower Lias often lie close to the surface providing fine building stone, especially for paving slabs (Victoria County History, 2021). No superficial deposits are recorded for this part of the site.

Figure 4. Geological map of Keinton Mandeville and the surrounding area – bedrock and superficial deposits. Brown = blue Lias. Pink = Triassic mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Yellow = superficial Quaternary alluvium. Site marked by the red pin (BGS 2021).

3.0 Archaeological Background

3.1 The South West Heritage Trust provide the county Historic Environment Record (HER) for Keinton Mandeville parish. The following section summarises relevant Public Record Numbers (PRN) entries for Keinton Mandeville (paragraph 3.2), and the archaeological works undertaken at Lakeview Quarry (paragraph 3.3).

3.2 Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) entries for Keinton Mandeville.

PRN 14200 Quarry, Chistles Lane, Keinton Mandeville
Details 'Ham Hill Quarry' shown on Ordnance Survey map of c1904.
'Stone Quarry' noted to the south of the old workings on recent map.
OS Grid Ref: ST 545 305

PRN 54071 Iron Age pottery find
Details Hallstatt pottery found in Keinton Quarry. Several small quarries were working in the late 1920s within 0.805km of the village, but local informants cannot recall any archaeological finds being made - marginal site.

Figure 5. Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) map of Keinton Mandeville (Know Your Place, 2021).

company	year	project	description notes	PRN
AC Archaeology	2001	Evaluation Trenches	6 trenches. Quarried out by 2017.	11674
AC Archaeology	2009	Evaluation Trenches	Evaluation Trenches Tr.1 to Tr.14.	28319
Context One	2013	Test Pits	Test Pits 1 - 3 to investigate the Romano-British building excavated in 2017.	32316
Hollinrake Archaeology	2017	Watching brief & excavation	Watching brief on 4 ecological ponds – Areas 20 – 23, and excavation of a Romano-British building Area 24.	34768
Hollinrake Archaeology	2020	excavation	4 open area excavations – Area 25 - 28.	45106

Figure 6. Summary table of archaeological fieldwork undertaken at Lakeview Quarry 2001-2020.

3.3 Summary Background of Archaeological Work at Lakeview Quarry

3.3.1 Four separate archaeological projects have been undertaken at Lakeview Quarry between 2001 and 2021, including this present project. These projects and a general summary of the results have been recorded together by the Somerset Heritage Service under the Somerset Historic Environment Number PRN 28510. The separate projects have also been assigned individual Public Record Numbers within this grouping (South West Heritage Trust, 2021).

3.3.2 Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) for archaeological works undertaken at Lakeview Quarry.

PRN 11674 Evaluation (2001), Lake View Quarry, Keinton Mandeville
Details Six trenches were opened in an area proposed for quarrying to the S of Chistles Lane - an area where a Roman villa (PRN 54073) is suspected. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recovered.
AC Archaeology. Museum Accession Number: TTNCM 186/2005
OS Grid Ref: ST 546 305

PRN 28319 Evaluation (2009), Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville
Details An archaeological evaluation of a proposed 2.25 hectare quarry extension was undertaken by AC Archaeology in October 2009. Early Iron Age and Romano-British features and finds were recorded, including at least one "hut", evidence for other post-built structures, a stone trackway and several inhumation burials. Pottery, animal bone and other domestic waste was recovered. Full report awaited.
AC Archaeology: Museum Accession Number: TTNCM 236/2009.
OS Grid Ref: ST 545 304

PRN 28510 Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, Lakeview Quarry
Details Early Iron Age and Romano-British features and finds were recorded during excavation, including at least one "hut", evidence for other post-built structures, a stone trackway and several inhumation burials. Pottery, animal bone and other domestic waste was recovered. Soil stripping uncovered walls belonging to several buildings. Both the character of the masonry and all the finds indicated a Roman date.
OS Grid Ref: ST 545 304

PRN 32316 Evaluation (2013), Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville
Details Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville. Four small trial pits were excavated to characterise a series of walls discovered during soil stripping.
OS Grid Ref: ST 545 303
Context One Archaeological Services: Museum Accession Number: TTNCM 76/2013

PRN 34768 Excavation (2017), Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville
Details Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville
The exposed remains of a Romano-British building that had previously been seen in evaluations as excavated. The rubble matrix was removed from within the main body of the building, which measured c.8m x 17m. It was constructed using faced Lias stone blocks with a rubble core, of which one or two courses of masonry had survived. Rare portions of the original Lias flagstone floor also survived in situ, and these lay upon an off-set course of Lias masonry. Two courses of herring-bone, pitched stone foundations were present throughout, and traces of white lime wash were also evident. The western wall had apparently slumped into an adjacent silted-up Iron Age ditch. Evidence of later re-use was suggested by pits excavated into the subsoil within the building. An eastern extension of the building was exposed measuring c.8m x 8m. There was no evidence for faced stones, off-set masonry, or a floor within the eastern extension, which was of inferior quality, and slightly wider at 0.90m, above herring-bone foundations. These factors, combined with the lower frequency of artefacts present within the eastern extension, suggest that it functioned as courtyard. No evidence for internal partition walls was seen within the main building, which contained the remains of a large doorway in the centre of the south wall, suggesting that the building was more likely to have been a barn than a villa.
OS Grid Ref: ST 545 303
Hollinrake Archaeology. TTNCM 8 / 2016

PRN 54073 Roman villa site, Keinton Mandeville
Details "Chistles Lane" printed on OSAD 6" map.
Probably the site of a Roman villa.
OS Grid Ref: ST 548 305

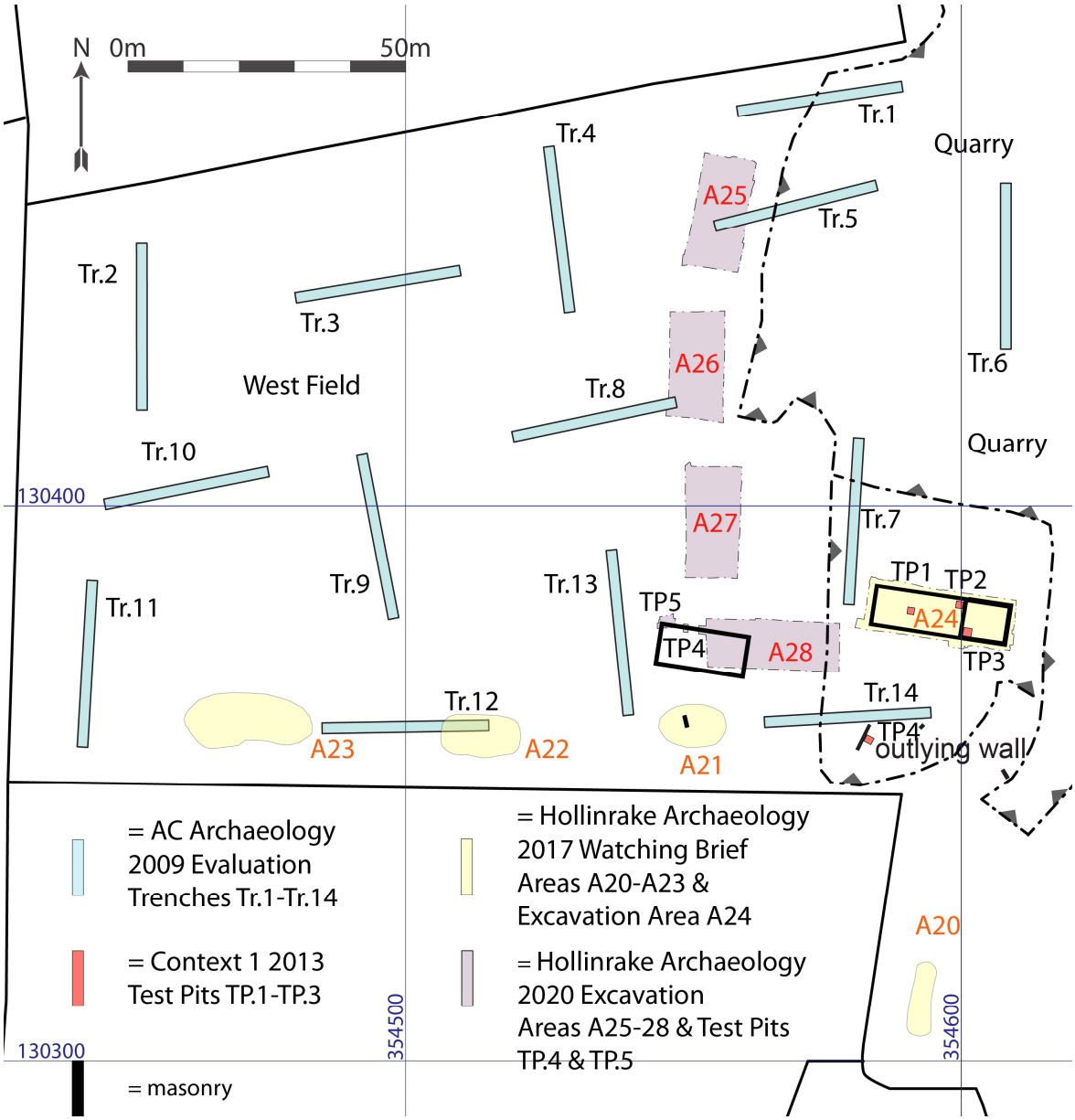


Figure 7. Plan of archaeological fieldwork at Lakeview Quarry from 2009 to 2017. 1:125 scale.

3.4 Previous investigations

3.4.1 The site has been the subject to a series of archaeological investigations, which have been summarised by A. Lane of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (Lane, 2016).

3.4.2 Curtailed evaluation trench investigations by AC Archaeology (2009) within West Field confirm that archaeological features and deposits well-preserved (PRN 28510), although the archaeological horizon appears to have been truncated to various degrees by agricultural and quarrying activities.

3.4.3 Features observed in 2009 within West Field include:

- IA & RB timber structures
- at least one dwelling
- a metalled trackway
- several burials and cremations
- at least one substantial stone Romano-British building

3.4.4 The recording of the 2009 evaluation trenches was curtailed by the former landowner when it became apparent that the density of archaeological remains rendered the intended western extension of the quarry into West Field impracticable.

3.4.5 Galion Homes requested that Hollinrake Archaeology acquire as much information regarding the 2009 evaluation results as possible. AC Archaeology generously provided Hollinrake Archaeology with the complete archive of the unfinished evaluation.
The AC Archaeology archive consists of:

- 17 x bags of finds, each bag marked with a context number, containing large quantities of pottery sherds dating from the middle Iron Age to the medieval period, with a smaller volume of bone, fired clay, metalworking residues and flints.
- 14 x Trench Summary recording sheets containing a brief report of the initial findings in each trench, together with a sketch plan of the most obvious features.
- 1 x CD containing the ca. 80 digital colour photographs plus a photographic recording form specifying which of the 17 trenches was being photographed.
- The archive confirms that none of the archaeological features exposed during the 2009 evaluation were hand excavated.

3.4.6 **The Pottery Assemblage** Although the barn in Area 24 was undoubtedly a Romano-British structure, and the 2009 evaluation results recorded an Iron Age and Romano-British site (PRN 28319), analysis of the finds from the fieldwork indicate that the site dates primarily from the Iron Age period.
Significant quantities of RB pottery (Figure 8) were recovered from:

- AC trenches 10, 13
- HAC areas 21, 22, 23 and 24
- AC trench 14 (between areas 21 and 24) lies within the part of the site, yet produced no finds, alerting us to the unavoidable limitations of the available data.
- Trench 12 was also barren of finds.

3.4.7 The spread of RB pottery (Figure 8) suggests that it concentrated on the southern edge of the field with an outlier on the eastern end of Trench 10 (AC 2009 Trench Summary).

3.4.8 The Iron Age pottery takes the form of a variety of fabrics as assessed by the presence / absence of temper and types of temper, suggesting different workshops and/or locations of manufacture:

- reduced fabrics, oxidized surfaces, limestone temper
- reduced fabrics, oxidized surfaces, limestone temper, small voids
- reduced fabrics with abundant limestone temper
- reduced fabrics, shell temper
- reduced fabrics, oxidized surfaces, no temper
- reduced fabrics, oxidized surfaces, black burnished coating
- grey fabrics, oxidized surfaces, fine limestone temper
- sandy greyware fabrics
- oxidized fabric and surfaces, limestone and quartz temper
- oxidized fabrics, reduced cores, sandy
- Some pottery is decorated with stabs and/or groove decoration.

3.4.9 Although this basic list cannot be considered to be a specialist analysis of this pottery assemblage, enough information can be drawn from the basic fabric descriptions listed above to demonstrate that the Iron Age pottery derives from a wide variety of sources. This shows that the settlement benefited from a wide-ranging distribution network. The variety of pottery fabrics probably carries with it some implications for dating of the various features and activities.

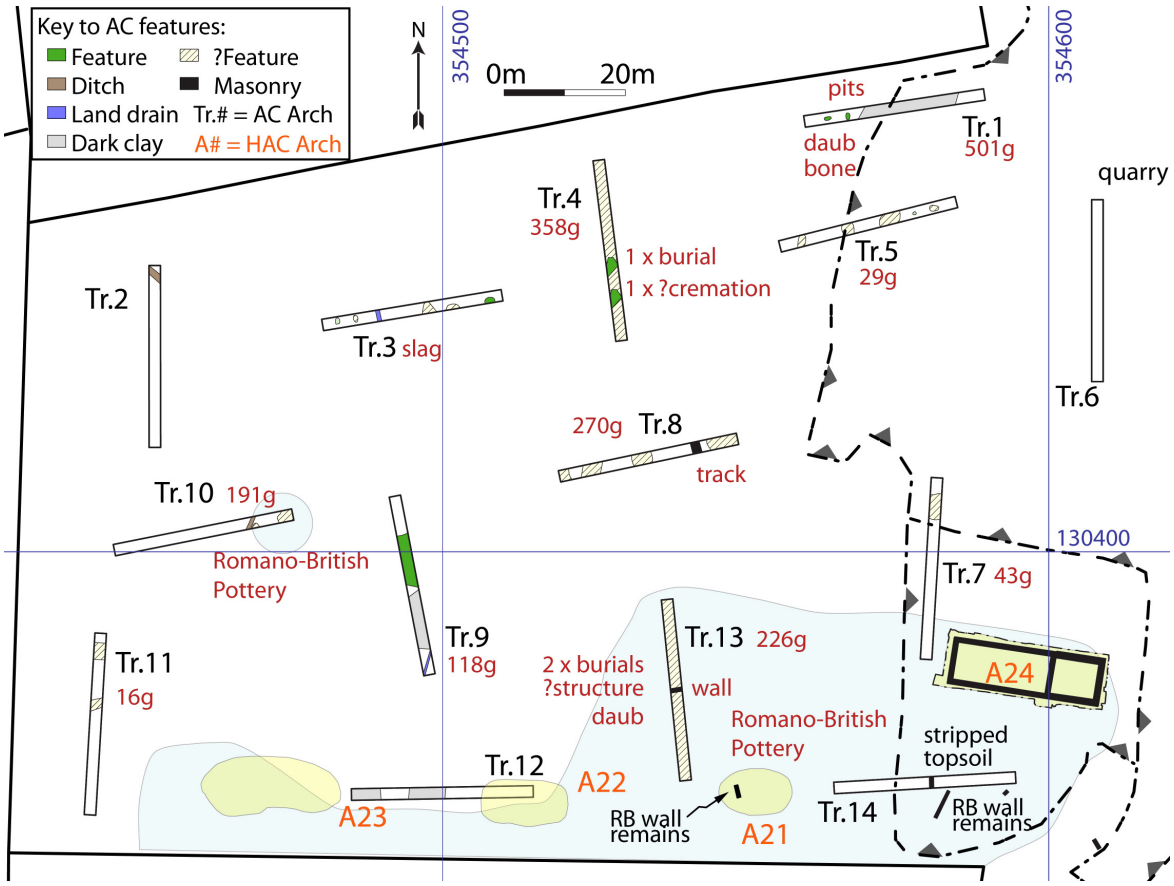


Figure 8. Annotated plan of the 2009 archaeological evaluation results at Lakeview Quarry. The weight of pottery recovered from each trench is noted in red, along with the principal features. 1:125 scale.
• Area where RB pottery was recovered indicated by light blue shading.
• Evaluation trenches 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 14, and HAC excavation Areas 21 and 24 lie within close proximity to the proposed development.

3.4.10 The Features Figure 11 illustrates the archaeological features which were sketched upon the Trench Summaries pro forma recording sheets. Although many features cannot be confirmed as such without the cleaning and sampling, a few did get some investigation and others were obvious, making it possible to draw up the following list of features:

trench	description	depth of trench
1	2x pits; dark soil with burning and plentiful pottery	25-40 cm
2	ditch at N end	25cm
3	vague dark patches, feature to W end	35-50cm
4	dark deposits throughout; 1x burial, 1x ?cremation	35cm
5	possible features along trench	30cm
6	trench void; backfilled former quarry?	40
7	deep soils and mixed clay, feature at N end	45-70cm
8	possible features throughout, trackway at E end	30cm
9	dark soils, natural at N part	40cm
10	features at E end	40cm
11	2x dark soil, less active than elsewhere	35cm
12	dark soils, no obvious features	25-45cm
13	features and deposits throughout, 2x burials, 1x ?structure	25-35cm
14	no discernable features, nor finds (but see caveat above)	35cm

Figure 9. Feature summary table from the 2009 evaluation at Lakeview Quarry.

Figure 10. Annotated photograph of the human skeleton within 2009 Evaluation Trench 4. Looking approximately SW.

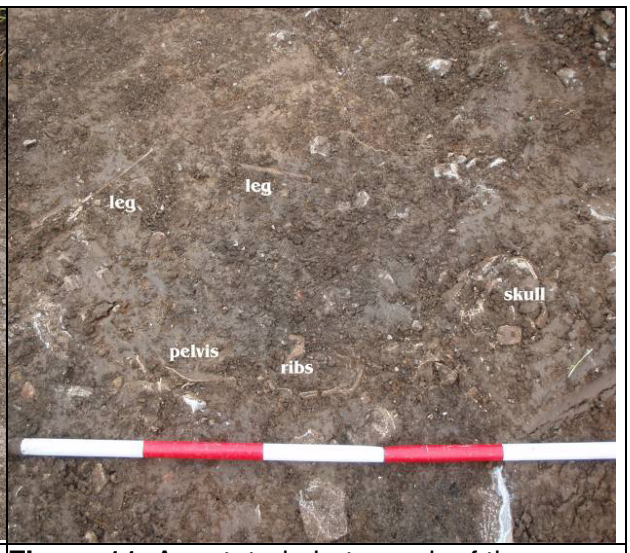


Figure 11. Annotated photograph of the crouched human inhumation within 2009 Evaluation Trench 13.

4.0 Historic Maps

4.1 There was no Tithe Map available for Keinton Mandeville on the Somerset Historic Environment Record website when accessed in February 2021.

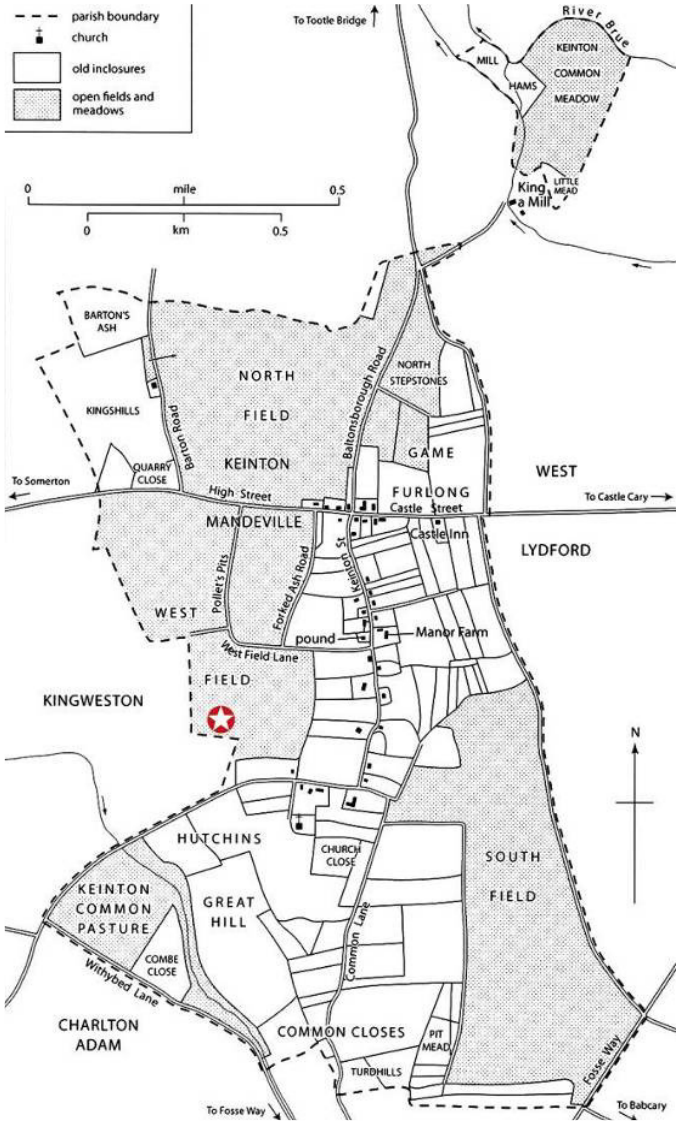


Figure 12.

Keinton Mandeville 1810 enclosure map (Victoria County History, 2021).

Lakeview quarry is located within the southern part of 'West Field'.

Site marked with a star.

Figure 13.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map, revised 1910-1940 (South West Heritage Trust 2021).

Site marked with a star.

Contains Ordnance Survey data © and database right 2018.

Figure 14.

RAF aerial photograph of the site prior to the establishment of Lakeview Quarry (1946).

Site marked with a star.
(South West Heritage Trust, 2021).

Chapter 5 Historic Background

5.1 The church of St. Mary Magdalene lies at the southern edge of the village, at the end of a lane which runs from the church, along the eastern edge of the Lakeview Quarry field, and along Irving Road to join High Street. The area surrounding this lane appears to represent the rectilinear layout of the original Saxon and Medieval town (South West Heritage Trust, 2021).

5.2 Keinton Mandeville is referred to as *Chintune* in the Domesday Book. (South West Heritage Trust 2021). This is an Old English name meaning "Royal Manor" derived from *cyne* (king) + *tun* (town) (Mills, 1998). Lord William de Maundevill (or Mandeville), was lord of Keinton Mandeville in the 13th century. The town name was recorded as *Kyngton Maundevill* in 1280, meaning "Royal Manor" (Ayto, J. & Crofton, I. 2005).

5.3 Domesday Book of 1086 Entry - 'Mauger holds CHINTUNE (Keinton Mandeville) from the Count. Two thanes held it before 1066; it paid tax for 5 hides. Land for 5 ploughs. In lordship 3 ploughs; 5 slaves; 4 hides & 1 virgate, less 5 acres. 2 villagers and 4 small holders with 1 cottager have 1½ ploughs & 3 virgates and 5 acres. Meadow, 30 acres. 5 pigs; 85 sheep. Value £4; when the count acquired it, £5.' (Thorn, C. and Thorn, F. 1980).

5.4 Keinton has long been known for its Blue Lias stone quarries, as it was the primary source of building stone for the surrounding area (Mills, A, 1998). One reference in 1280 to a mason at Keinton suggests an early use of local stone, but the first account of a quarry in Keinton Mandeville dates to the 16th century. Field names such as, Pits Close, Little Quarpits and Great Quar also suggest old quarry sites. A quarry at Turnpike Road was held by the Dauncy family in 1789, as well as another in the town (Victoria County History, 2021).

5.5 Post-Medieval Background and Discussion of Historic Maps

5.5.1 Mary Siraut stated that extensive quarrying for Lias stone was taking place in Keinton Mandeville by 1791. The stone lay in two to six-inch-thick layers, separated by clay. This Lias could be easily lifted in slabs that are perfect for paving, and large quantities were extracted and sent out of the area (Ibid, 2021).

5.5.2 The 1810 Keinton Mandeville Enclosure Map (Figure 12) shows a field named "West Field" upon the summit of "King's Hill", which was bisected by "West Field Road". "West Field" is a large open field which abutted "High Street", extending 0.75 kilometres from north to south. The field which was the subject of the 2017 archaeological works was the portion of "West Field" shown to the south of "West Field Road" on the 1810 map.

5.5.3 There were many of names on the 1810 Keinton Mandeville Enclosure map which indicated further quarrying activity in the parish. These names included: "Quarry Close" which was marked on the map to the north of "West Field"; "North Stepstones" and "Pit Mead". At the south-east corner of the map the Fosse Way is shown (PRN 55101). There are currently no tithe maps available for Keinton Mandeville on the online Somerset Historic Environment Record.

5.5.4 New quarries were opened in the parish after the 1810 enclosure that employed around forty local people, in contrast to just eighteen employed in agriculture. By 1841 there were five stone merchants and sixty-four stone cutters recorded, which increased to eighty-three men in 1851, approximating to one seventh of the total population. In 1868 Robert Bailey, a local quarry owner, was supplying building stone from the Keinton Mandeville quarries to towns including Salisbury, Frome and Weston Super Mare. By the late 1800's there were fourteen quarries in the small town, prompting the construction of a tramway.

5.5.5 The name of the small road which led to "West Field" was changed from "West Field Road", as shown on the 1810 Enclosure Map (Figure 12), to "Chistles Lane" by the time that the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map was produced (SWHT, 2021). *Chistle* is derived from the Old English *ceosel* or *cisel*, meaning "gravel" or "shingle' (Gelling, M. and Cole, A, 2000). Public Record Number 54017 records the probable site of a Roman villa on "Chistles Lane" opposite Lakeview Quarry. The name "Chistles Lane" may have been applied as a reference to fragments of building material associated with the proposed villa site, such as *tesserae*.

5.5.6 There were three other sites marked as "Quarry" on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map. Two located to the east of "Queen Street", and one to the north of "Church Street". There was a small mark representing a small quarry in a field marked "88", which used to be part of "West Field" on the 1810 Enclosure Map (SWHT, 2021).

5.5.7 Over a fifth of the local population was employed in the quarry business in 1901, but the industry had dwindled to just three companies by 1910, and many old quarry pits were used as refuse dumps (VCH, 2021).

5.5.8 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, revised 1910-1940 (Figure 13), shows the emergence of "Ham Hill Quarry" to the north of "Chistle's Lane" in the northern portion of "West Field", which was an extensive quarry by the time of the 1946 aerial photograph (Figure 14), and was also referred to in multiple sources as present in 1967 (VCH, 2021).

6.0 The Archaeological Excavation: Introduction and Methods

6.1 The archaeological fieldwork consisted of four open area excavations, covering approx. 800 m², which were recorded using the Hollinrake Archaeology site code – KML20.

6.2 All assigned conventions, such as area, test pits and sample numbers etc. have been carried forward from the 2017fieldwork, which used the same approach regarding the previous projects so as to avoid duplication.

6.3 The four excavation areas (A) were numbered A25, A26, A27 & A28 (from N to S). Hollinrake Archaeology archaeologically monitored the creation of four environmental ponds (A20, A21, A22 & A23), and excavated Romano-British barn Structure 1 within A24 in 2017 (Figure 7).

Excavation Area	Dimensions	SW coordinate	NE coordinate	Area Size (approx.)
A25	from 0.24m (NW) to 0.34m (SE) deep x 10.00m wide x 21.50m NNE-SSW	354549.7 / 130443.26	354563.10 / 130461.65	210m²
A26	from 0.29m (NE) to 0.38m (SE) deep x 10.00m wide x from 19.00m (W) to 20.00m (E) N-S	354546.70 / 130416.20	354557.50 / 130435.07	190 m²
A27	from 0.35m (NW) to 0.44m (SE) deep x 9.40m (S) to 10.10m (N) wide x from 19.00m (W) to 20.00m (E) N-S	354549.02 / 130387.00	354559.23 / 130406.95	190 m²
A28	from 0.37m (NW) to 0.60m (SE) deep x from 8.50m (W) to .900m (E) wide x 24.00m ESE-WNW	354554.19 / 130370.93	354578.27 / 130378.93	210 m²

Figure 15. Table detailing the 2020 archaeological excavation areas.

6.4 Two machine excavated Test Pits (TP5 & TP6) were created to the west of A28 to uncover the north and westward extent of the remains of stone-built Romano-British building Structure 2.

test pit	removed contexts	easting	northing	dimensions	details
TP5	2801, 2802A & B	354550	130378	0.90m E-W x 1.50m N-S	Machine excavated test pit over RB wall 2809 – Structure 2 - cleaned by hand.
TP6	2801, 2802A & B	354548	130379	2.60m N-S x 3.30m E-W	Machine excavated test pit over the NW-corner of RB wall 2809 - Structure 2 - cleaned by hand.

Figure 16. Table detailing the 2020 Test Pits.

6.5 The excavation areas were opened up primarily by Andy, with assistance from Roy & John from G. Doble Ltd. driving a JCB 86 C-1 machine, with a 1m or 2m grading bucket.

6.6 The plan of the machining strips for each area is presented on Figure 21.

6.7 All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Guidelines laid down by the Somerset County Council in the South West Heritage Trust's (Historic Environment Service) *Somerset Archaeological Handbook*, *2017*.

6.8 **Context numbers** for the various deposits and features were allocated and written descriptions were recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. A single context recording system was used throughout.

6.9 **Archaeological features** were half sectioned and drawn at a scale of either 1:10 or 1:20 depending on their size. The excavation areas were planned at a scale of 1:20. A DJI Phantom 3 drone was also used for mapping and site progress.

6.10 A **day book** was kept listing daily events, visitors, observations etc.

6.11 **Date ranges** of archaeological periods have been assigned in accordance with the Historic England '*Periods List'* (English Heritage, 2018).

6.12 The project was recorded photographically using digital cameras and drone photography. A collection of 6,890 digital photographs were collected, and arranged into digital folders (36.3 GB), alongside 976 digital drone photographs (10 GB).

6.13 Trench layout and positional data was provided by site GPS surveyor Steve Friend of SG. Barber Services, using a DS-105AC Topcon Total Station, which was used to layout a 5m grid aligned to the national grid.

6.14 Global Positioning Survey data (GPS) has been used throughout this report. The data has been processed using QGIS (Quantum Geographic Information System) open-source software. NGR co-ordinates were often abbreviated to three figures during recording (e.g. NGR 331300 / 143300 - abbreviated to 300 / 300).

6.15 Levels above Ordnance Datum (mAOD) were recorded throughout the project. Four temporary bench marks (TBM) were established using a Total Station. A CST / Berger 55-SAL24ND - 24X SAL Automatic Level was then used to collect subsequent values, which were listed upon *pro-forma* level sheets. Mapped temporary benchmark locations are presented within Appendix 2.

TBM.	NGR	mAOD	notes
4	354554.18 / 130439.37	49.94	top of wooden stake - nail
5	354548.10 / 130408.10	49.66	top of wooden stake - nail
6	354547.00 / 130413.00	49.10	front-right toe of storage container
7	354548.10 / 130408.10	49.58	top of wooden stake – nail – replacement of TBM 5

Figure 17.

Table detailing Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) elevations and locations.

6.16 Levelled Sections – The deposits exposed within the excavation sections were levelled (mAOD) to record the dynamics of the stratigraphic sequence across the site. Fifty-one levelled sections were recorded from LSP 21 to LSP 72, and their locations were plotted using Ordnance Survey coordinates. The mapped numbered levelled section locations are presented within Appendix 3.

6.17 Sondages Six hand-dug sondages (So.1-So.6) and two machine sondages (MS1 & MS2) were excavated to investigate the stratified deposits at strategic locations; which were accompanied by eight retained blocks of various deposits (BK1 – BK8). A plan of the sondages and retained blocks is presented within Appendix 2.

sondage	removed contexts	easting	northing	surface (mAOD)	dimensions	details
So.1	2802, 2809, 2810, 2831, 2832	354552	130377	48.08	up to 0.20m deep x 0.40m E-W x 1.50m N-S	Sondage recording & removing the western exposed extent of wall (2809) and floor (2810) down to the geology within A28. Features (2832) / [2833] & (2831) were removed against the E-facing section.
So.2	2805B upper, 2805B lower, 2808	354563	130379	47.82	0.20m deep x 0.50m N-S x 1.00m E-W	Sondage through stratified deposit (2805)B down to the geology against the S-facing section A28.
So.3	2805B upper, 2805B lower	354554	130379	47.91	0.23m deep x 0.30m E-W x 0.50m N-S	Sondage through stratified deposit (2805)B down to the geology against the S&E-facing sections at the NW-corner of A28.
So.4	2804	354551	130379	47.89	0.15m deep x 0.30m N-S x 0.30m E-W	Investigative sondage below (2817)
So.5	2701, 2702, 2733. 2734	345551	130407	48.59	0.30m deep x 0.70m N-S x 1.20m E-W	Northern extension of the NW-corner of A27 - excavating pottery from posthole (2733) / [2734] & pit (2744) / [2747]
So.6	2805B upper, 2805B lower	354568	130379	47.73	0.07m deep x 0.50m E-W x 0.50m N-S	Sondage through clean stratified deposit (2805)B down to the geology against the S-facing section A28.
MS1	2801, 2802A, 2805A, 2810	354554	130372	48.20	up to 0.20m deep x 1.00m E-W x 3.50m N-S	Stratigraphic machine sondage at the SW-corner A28 - Machine Strip 1
MS2	2601, 2602	354548	130434	49.44	0.40m deep x 0.80m E-W x 1.40m N-S	Stratigraphic machine sondage at the NW-corner A28 - Machine Strip 1

Figure 18. Table detailing the hand-dug sondages (So.) & machine-excavated sondages (MS).

block	removed deposits	associated features	easting	northing	surface (mAOD)	dimensions	find bag (FB)	special finds (SF)	sample
Bk.1	2502	posthole [2534]/ (2533)	354553	130452	49.50	0.80m x 2.00m x 2.00m	216, 217, 228, 229, 231, 232, 233	16, 17, 18, 19	none
Bk.2	2812	drain [2830]/ (2829)/ (2807) & [2837]/ (2836)	354569	130372	47.71	0.18m x 0.50m x 3.40m	320, 336	none	none
Bk.3	2802B, 2805 B upper, 2811	drain [2830]/ (2829)/ (2807) & [2837]/ (2836)	354570	130379	47.78	0.25m x 1.00m x 1.00m	8.5	none	37, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44
Bk.4	2811	wall [2828]/ (2827)/ (2806)	354562	130372	47.82	0.23m x 1.00m x 1.00m	none	none	none
Bk.5	2802A, 2805A, 2810	wall [2828]/ (2827)/ (2806)	354560	130373	47.80	0.27m x 1.50m x 1.50m	403, 469, 470	none	55
Bk.6	2811	wall [2835]/ (2834)/ (2809)	354562	130377	48.01	0.20m x 1.00m x 1.00m	none	none	none
Bk.7	2702A, 2705	pit [27100]/ (2723) & SK2 etc.	354556	130391	48.33	0.10m x 2.80m x 3.50m	715, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722	none	119
Bk.8	2631, 2605	posthole [26104]/ (26103)/ (26102) & [26101]/ (2622), posthole [26112]/ (26111), pit [26110]/ (26109)/ (26108)/ (26107) & posthole [26105]/ (26106)	354551	130419	48.95	0.10m x 1.50m x 3.00m	575, 576, 574, 578, 579, 577	none	none
Bk.9	2501, 2524	fire pit [2577]/ (2548)/ (2549)	354556	130455	49.54	0.15m x 1.00m x 1.50m	245, 347	none	25, 26, 46

Figure 19. Table detailing the retained blocks for hand excavation.

6.18 Finds and artefacts recovered during the excavation were bagged by archaeological context, or as un-stratified (U/S). After the fieldwork had been completed, the finds were washed, dried, sorted and listed. Modern materials, including factory-made pottery and modern building rubble were collected, listed and subsequently discarded in accordance with the CIfA *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. (2019). Retained finds were marked with their respective contexts and with the South West Heritage Trust Accession Number: TTNCM 8 / 2016 (shared with previous work on the site). The digitised finds lists are provided within Appendix 13.
Finds distribution plans are presented within Appendix 11.

6.19 Metal Detecting was carried out by Mr. Tom Gillam using a Rutus Alter 71 VLF, and Minelab Equinox 600 VLF metal detectors.

6.20 Numbered Finds Bags All finds bags have been sequentially numbered, continuing the numerical sequence assigned during the 2017 excavation. Three conventions were used:

• **Finds Bag (FB)** numbers were assigned to collect the vast majority of artefacts.
A total of 666 numbered finds bags were collected, ranging from FB-200 to FB-866.

• **Special Finds (SF)** numbers retained delicate, rare or/& significant finds.
A total of 22 numbered small / special finds were collected, ranging from SF-15 to SF-36.

• **Metal Detector (MD)** find numbers were exclusively assigned to artefacts from metal detecting.
A total of 6 numbered metal detecting finds were collected, ranging from MD-1 to MD-6.
• The finds lists are presented by Appendix 13.

6.21 Palaeoenvironmental Samples Palaeoenvironmental bulk samples were collected from the stratified deposits and the fills of features. The mean volume of the palaeoenvironmental bulk samples was c.10L. A total of 156 bulk samples were collected during the 2020 fieldwork, consecutively numbered from Sample <20> to Sample <175> (four sample numbers were withdrawn). The assigned sample numbers ran consecutively from the 2017 fieldwork.

6.22 Sample Processing The paleoenvironmental bulk samples collected for flotation to retrieve artefactual and environmental material were processed by GeoFlo Archaeological Services during post-excavation. The samples were wet sieved to retrieve finds and palaeoenvironmental indicators, using a 250µm mesh to catch the flot, and a 1000µm mesh to collect the residue.
• The palaeoenvironmental sample distribution plans are presented within Appendix 7.

6.23 The residue collected from wet sieving was sorted and listed by Hollinrake Archaeology, under the supervision of Dr. Matt Law (Senior Lecturer in Environmental Change and Sustainability at Bath Spa University). The sample strategy for upcoming specialist involvement is currently being designed. The results from the specialist reports will be included within the final report.
• The sample lists is presented by Appendix 8.

Subject	Specialist	Organisation	Main application
faunal remains	Dr. Richard Madgwick & Poppy Hodkinson	Cardiff University	Species & breed ID
flotation	Nigel Harvey	GeoFlo	wet sieving
flot & residue assessment	Dr. Matt Law	Bath Spa University	Assessment
flot & residue sorting	In House - under supervision from Dr. Matt Law	HAC	Sample Sorting
foraminifera & mollusca	Dr. Matt Law	Bath Spa University	Species ID
plant macrofossils	Ellen Simmons	Independent	Species ID
RB pottery	Dr. Jane Timby	University of Reading	dating
Prehistoric pottery	Dr. Alistair Barclay	Cotswold Archaeology	dating

Figure 20. Table listing proposed specialist archaeological analysts for the Lakeview Quarry archaeological project.

6.24 Abbreviations & Conventions

Subject	Convention	Example	Notes
Deposit or fill context number	( )	(2601)	consecutive numbering
cut numbers	[ ]	[2626]	consecutive numbering
uniform context numbers	#	#01	generic re-used context numbers
Area	A	A26	consecutive numbering
Test Pit	TP	TP5	consecutive numbering
Sondage (hand-dug)	So.	So.1	consecutive numbering
Machine Sondage	MS	MS1	consecutive numbering
Raised Block	Bk.	Bk.1	consecutive numbering
Finds Bag	FB	FB-200	consecutive numbering
machining finds	M	(2601)M	abbreviation
cleaning finds	C	(2602)C	abbreviation
Unstratified finds	U/S	A26 U/S spoil	abbreviation
Special Finds	SF	SF-20	consecutive numbering
Metal Detector Find	MD	MD-1	consecutive numbering
Sample	< >	<20>	consecutive numbering
Location (Grid Reference)	NGR	354550 / 130400	National Grid Reference
Elevation	mAOD	49.00mAOD	meters above Ordnance datum
Levelled Section	LSP	LSP 50	levelled section position
Temporary Bench Mark	TBM#	TBM1	consecutive numbering

Figure 21. Glossary table of Conventions and Abbreviations.

7.0 Lakeview Quarry 2020 Archaeological Excavation Results Stratified Deposits

7.1 The archaeological remains at Lakeview Quarry present a multi-phased site, with several archaeological horizons where the stratified deposits and archaeological features were well preserved towards the southern end of the site. This situation has provided an opportunity to propose preliminary site phasing regarding the stratified deposits, and their associated features.

7.2 The deposits recorded during the 2020 excavation generally accorded with the 2017 excavation results, with the addition of a Romano-British metalled surface within Area 28, at the southern end of the excavations. Preliminary site phasing was proposed during the 2017 excavations, which has been maintained, with prehistoric site Phase 1 elaborated upon, using letters a to f to represent the various prehistoric sub-phases. Dating of the artefactual assemblage has provided a framework of interim dates for the stratified deposits (Figure 23), which can be corroborated by specialist artefactual analysis and scientific dating. A summary of the dominant finds materials for the three main stratified deposits is presented below – Figure 22.

7.3 Analysis of the elevation of deposits within sections across the site has recorded the dynamics of the soil profile which varied between 0.35m deep at the northern end of the site, up to a maximum of 0.60m deep downslope to the south (Figures 25 & 26). The site's stratigraphic profile consisted of (from the top down) post-medieval ploughsoil, a later Iron Age to Romano-British occupation deposit, and the prehistoric subsoil, overlying interbedded Jurassic Lias bedrock and clays. 'The soil composition was alkaline in nature, reflecting the limestone geology of the region' (Hingston, 2021).

7.4 Ploughsoil #01 was a friable mid-brown, humic clay deposit which dominated the soil profile at a fairly consistent depth between 0.25m-0.40m. The archaeological background (Chapter 5.5) established that West Field was incorporated into the layout of the medieval open fields for the parish, and LiDAR imagery (Appendix 6) establishes that ridge & furrow earthworks are still common in the fields at the southern half of the village. The flat, hard border at the base of the ploughsoil was assigned context number #000 in post excavation to record truncation across the site created by this phase of ploughing, which post-dated the medieval ridge and furrow which it had severely reduced (Chapter 11). The depth of the ploughsoil had completely removed and replaced the archaeological deposits to the north of 130457mN, eradicating the relationships between the features at the northern end of Area 25 and the stratified deposits. Ploughing had clearly displaced large quantities of material from the upper stratigraphic levels, dating to the RB period and earlier, from their initial settings. Historic periods from the early medieval onwards have been assigned to site Phase 6. The medieval ridge and furrow was therefore assigned to site Phase 6a, and the post-medieval and modern periods to site Phase 6b.

7.5 Crumbly, dark brown occupation deposit #02 was differentiated from the overlying ploughsoil by virtue of its darker colouration, and stickier, siltier composition. The average depth of the deposit lay around 0.13m thick, reaching a maximum extent of 0.23m in Area 28, which is probably more representative of its original depth when it was the ground surface, prior to its later truncation and compaction.

7.6 Sustained settlement on the site during Iron Age site Phase 1d had created conditions such as bioturbation and cryoturbation, which contributed to the accumulation of soil horizon #02, derived from the weathering and churning up of the underlying parent material, recorded as subsoil deposit #05. Indications that occupation deposit #02 began forming prior to the RB period, and continued to develop into the medieval period are stratigraphically evident across the site. The pottery assemblage from deposit #02 further emphasizes this supposition, which amassed a total of 2,428 IA pottery sherds (16.8kg) from the deposit, compared to just 184 RB pot sherds (16.3kg). A small collection of five Romano-British coins including two dating to the late C3rd, were found from either the base of overlying ploughsoil #01, or in association with RB midden [2838] / fill 2813, which was cut through deposit 2802 (Chapter 11). A few possibly residual post-medieval pottery sherds have been recorded from deposit #02, alongside the ridge and furrow plough marks that were cut through deposit #02, making it stratigraphically evident that the soil developed at least

into the medieval period. Deposit #02 has consequently been tentatively dated spanning a broad time period from later Iron Age site Phase 1e to post-Roman site Phase 5. Deposit #02 was the exposed ground surface during the later Iron Age and RB periods, and has consequently often been summarised as an 'LIA-RB' occupation deposit.

7.7 A total of 76 features were recorded cutting through deposit #02 during the excavation. The presence of RB pottery fabrics within some of the feature fills has determined that 16 features from this group dated to RB site Phase 2 to Phase 5. The remaining 60 features, which were devoid of RB artefacts, have therefore been dated to the Iron Age. This group of features represent the stratigraphically later stages of the IA settlement, denoted by site Phases 1e and 1f. All of the Romano-British features, along with stone-built RB Structures 1 and 2 were cut through deposit #02. Romano-British metalled surface 2811 / 2812 was also laid upon the surface of deposit 2802, around Structure 2 in the C4th.

7.8 Compositional variance of deposit #02 was recorded within the central-eastern 6.50m of excavation Area 27, where it was recorded as deposit 2702A. The darker, siltier composition of 2702A was clearly distinguishable from the surrounding 2702 for 13.25m along the east-facing section of the area, with a hard south edge, and the northern edge removed by medieval furrow [2767]. The abundance of pottery, bone, charcoal, fired clay etc. led to the conclusion that the area covered by deposit 2702A was used as a midden at the southern edge of the settlement, accounting for the deposit's dark, sticky make-up. Two features within the deposit 2702A zone have consequently also been associated with refuse deposition. The largest of these features was a sub-circular c.3.00m x c.4.00m E-W area of very irregularly disturbed ground, potentially a large tree bole, numbered [2772], containing fills 2717, 2728 and 2760, which were stratigraphically equivalent to deposit 2702A, with varied compositions and inclusions. The smallest of these features was elongated pit [2776] which was also infilled by deposit 2702A, where it was re-numbered as fill 2765 (Chapter 9). Taken in the round, the quantity of domestic waste from deposit 2702A and its equivalent fills was not only in excess of the average volumes from occupation deposit #02, but the assemblage was also characterised by unusually large pot sherds (up to 70g), and animal bone fragments (324 fragments, 1713g). Iron Age pottery collected from this part of A27 totalled 609 sherds (3,842g), with only 9 x RB sherds present, signifying that the use of midden deposit 2702A probably discontinued prior to the RB period.

7.9 Crumbly, red-brown clayey subsoil #05 occupied the base of the soil profile, where it directly overlay the geological Lias clay or bedrock. The northern extent of the deposit's preservation lay at the northern end of A26 between 354547 / 130433 (NW) and 354557 / 130424 (NE) due to plough truncation. The absence of deposit #05 within Area 25 resulted in broad stratigraphic ranges for the northern-most features, which were consequently summarised as belonging to site Phase 1e to 2a, although some were almost certainly earlier. Although deposit #05 was typically a thin layer, measuring between 0.02m - 0.09m thick within Areas 26 and 27, the deposit was preserved up to a depth of 0.20m within Area 28. Within Area 28 #05 was discernibly subdivided into two bands. The upper 0.08m of the deposit contained the common charcoal and fired clay flecks, ubiquitous within deposit #05, while the lower 0.12m of the deposit was more clayey than 2805 upper, and virtually free of inclusions with the exception of rare artefactual material (see below).

7.10 Subsoil #05 is most likely a Holocene deposit, formed after the last ice age. We know that the deposit formed the Neolithic and Bronze Age ground surface, due to the presence of Grooved Ware pit [2672], which was cut through deposit 2605, reinforced by the fifty flint artefacts (295g) retrieved from the deposit (Chapter 8). The NL and BA periods are represented by site Phases 1a and 1b, which most likely correspond to deposit 2805 lower (discussed above), although the lower portion of the deposit clearly stretched into the Iron Age. Hand digging of 2805 lower retrieved 93 x IA pottery sherds (515g), 7 x flints (99g), 68 x animal bone & teeth (212g) and 25 x fired clay fragments (700g).

7.11 Features which were cut through deposit #05 and eventually sealed beneath later soil horizon #02 were assigned to site Iron Age Phase 1d. The earlier and apparently predominant site Phase 1d Iron Age settlement was formed upon the subsoil #05 ground surface and consisted of 3 x curvilinear gullies, 2 x inhumations, 28 x pits, 36 x postholes and 3 x stake holes (including re-cut features). All of the proposed Iron Age structures recorded during the 2020 season of works belong to this site phase. A rich assemblage of artefactual material was derived from deposit #05 totalling 709 x IA pottery sherds (3.7kg), 376 x animal bone (1.4kg), 1.2kg of fired clay, 50 x flints (295g), an Fe slag lump and 3 x residual RB pottery sherds. Many more kilograms of artefactual material was also collected from the Phase 1d features. Anticipated artefactual analysis supported by scientific dating should provide a range of dates relating to the earliest evidence for occupation on the site, and hopefully some notion of a *terminus ante quem* for deposit #05, and by extension the principal era of the Iron Age settlement itself.

7.12 The geology below West Field was formed of interbedded Blue Lias clay and bedrock shelves dipping at a shallow angle down to the north and east (c.1-2°). Isolated areas of oxidised red-brown Lias clay were encountered in ephemeral patches across the site, which were devoid of inclusions, recorded as #08. The base of the excavation areas were therefore formed by a mixture of brash, bedrock and Lias clay as each geological bed outcropped in bands across the site.

context (A25-A28)	type	interim dates	IA pot		RB pot		med - post-med pot		bone		flint		fired clay		Fe & slag	
			qty	wt (g)	qty	wt (g)	qty	wt (g)	qty	wt (g)	qty	wt (g)	qty	wt (g)	qty	wt (g)
#01	ploughsoil	later medieval onwards	1113	6633	263	1512	16	146	504	2744	50	327	295	1644	17	163
#02	occupation deposit	later IA-RB	2428	16783	184	1632	3	12.6	1276	8309	87	913.6	328	2054	16	97
#05	subsoil	prehistoric	708	3679	3	19	1	3.9	376	1378	50	295.5	103	1236	1	24

Figure 22. Finds summary table for the stratified material.

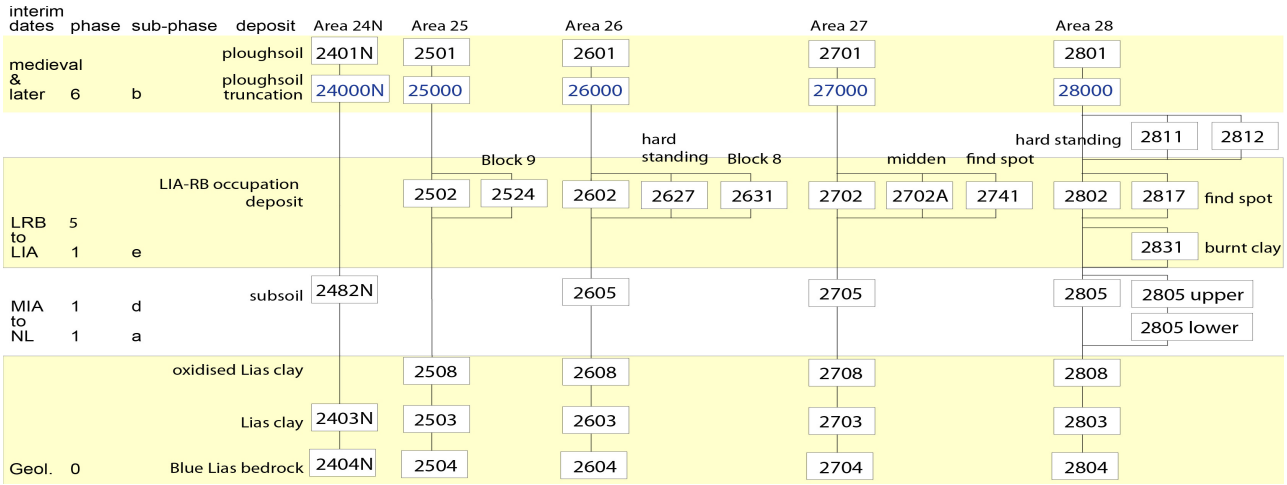


Figure 23. Harris Matrix of the stratified deposits recorded in 2020 (blue numbers represent cuts).

Figure 24.
Photograph of the south-facing section of Area 28 & hand-dug Sondage 2.
Deposits (upwards from the base)
- oxidised Lias clay 2808
- subsoil 2805 lower
- subsoil 2805 upper
- occupation deposit 2802
- metalled surface 2811
- ploughsoil 2801

0.50m scale.

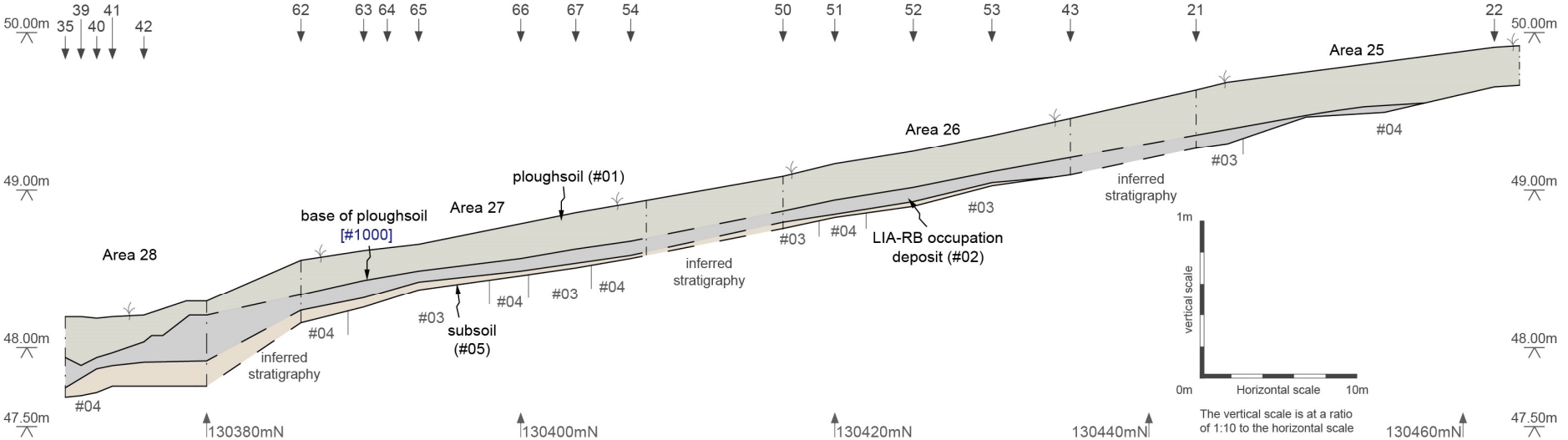


Figure 25. Schematic east-facing section illustration of the stratified deposits along the western edge of the four 2020 excavation areas. Generated from levelled section data (position numbers at the top of the page). NGR northings at the base of the image.

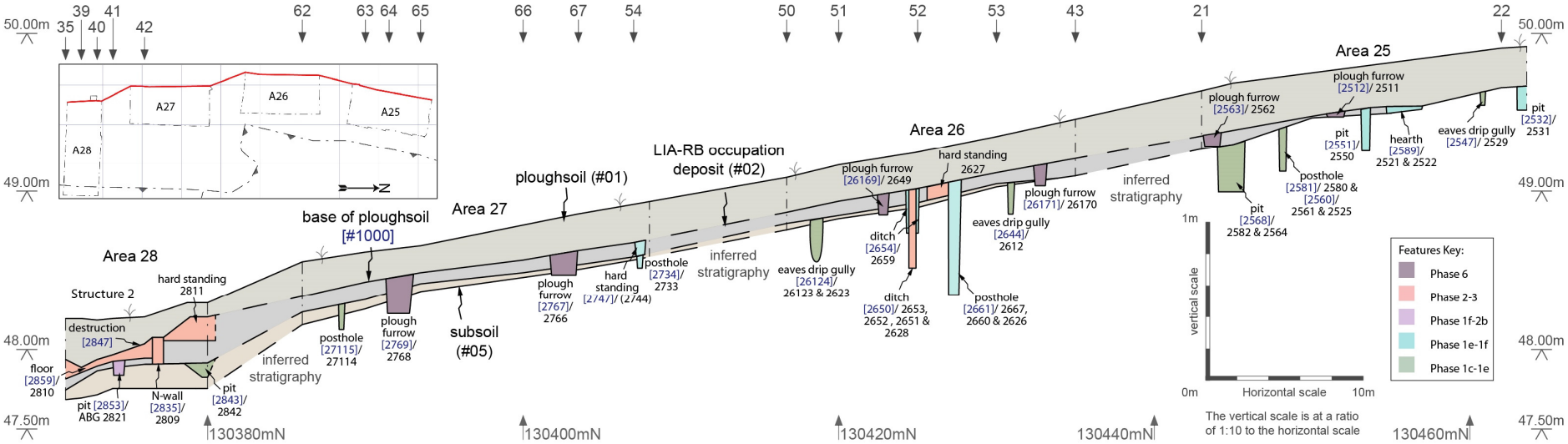


Figure 26. Schematic section illustration of the features and deposits along the western edge of the four 2020 excavation areas (inset map). Generated from site records and levelled section data. Vertical scale exaggerated by 1:10.

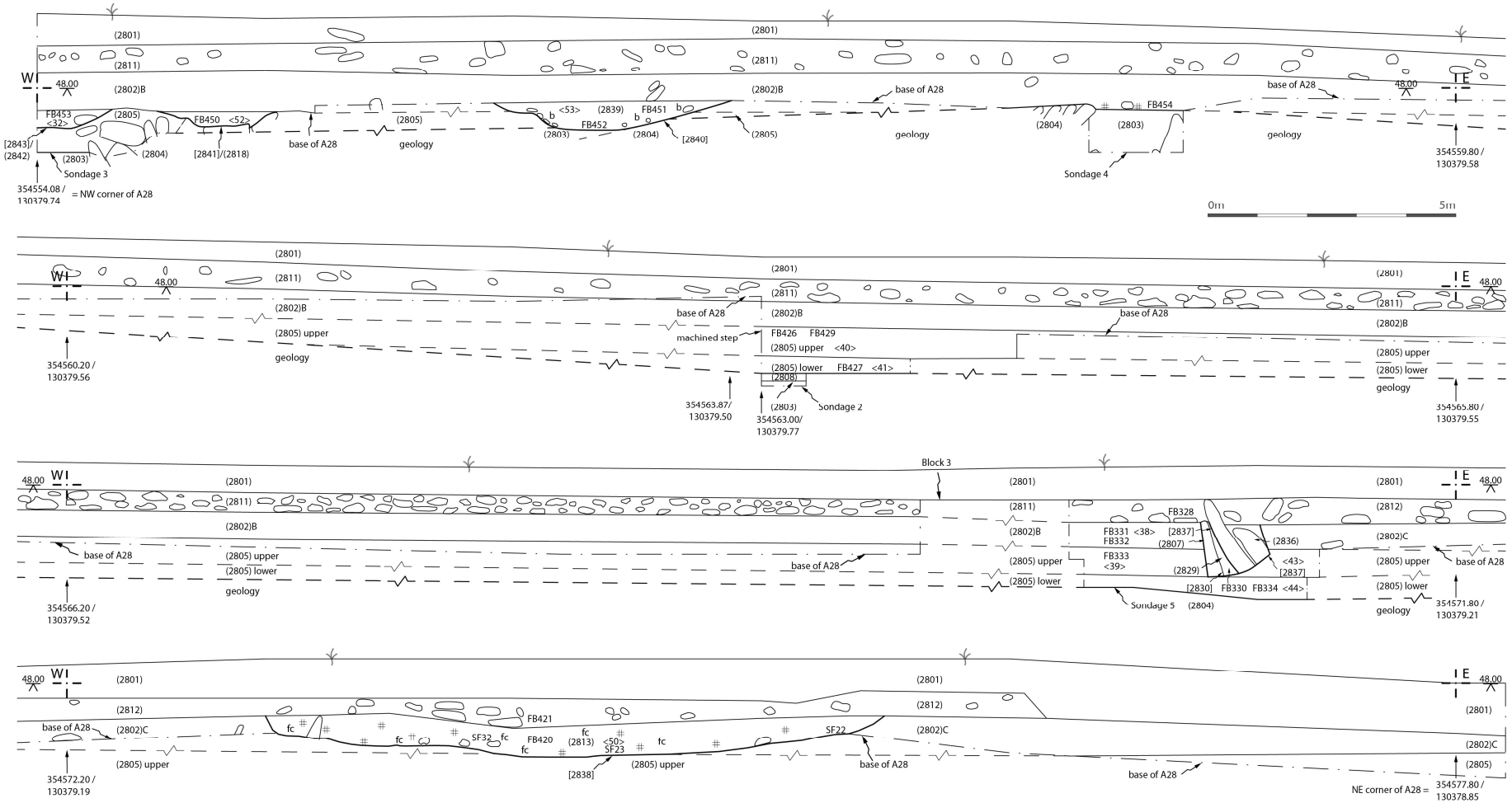


Figure 27. Illustration of the south-facing section of Area 28. Presented in four contiguous parts.

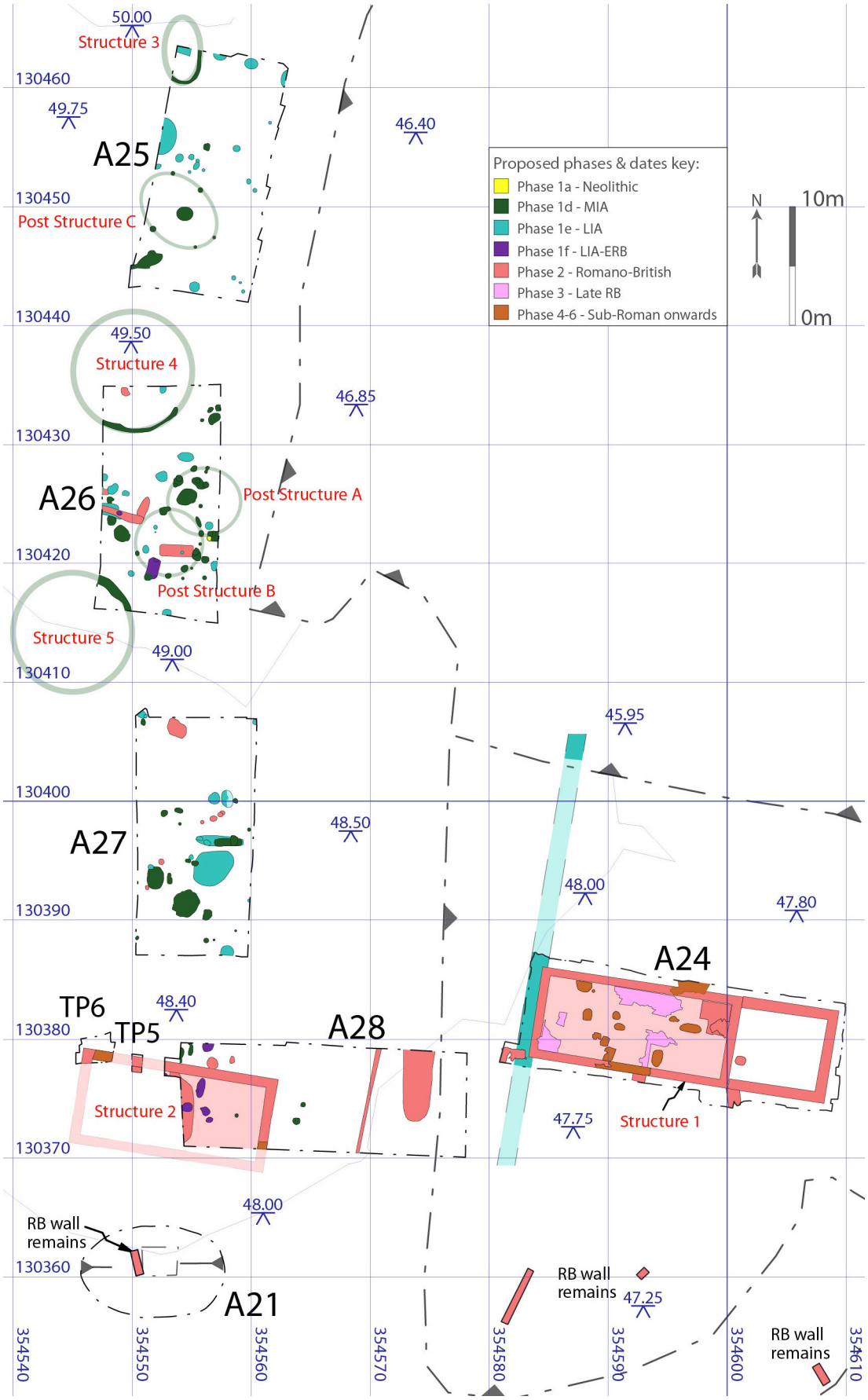


Figure 28. Site Map of the Lakeview Quarry 2017 & 2020 excavation results with colour coded interim site phasing. 1:500 scale.

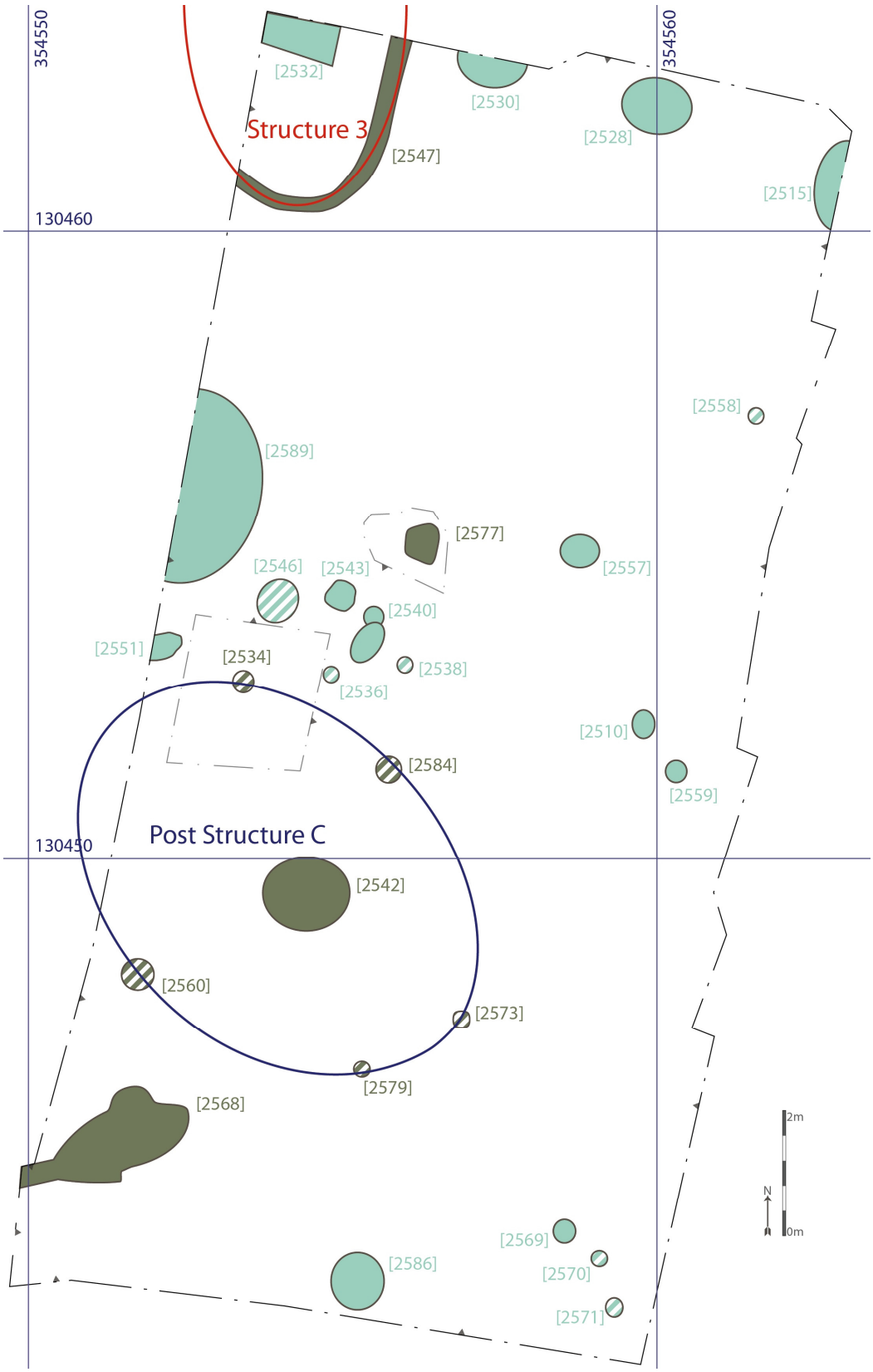


Figure 29. Area 25 phased features plan. 1:100 scale.

Phase 1a - Neolithic | Phase 1d - MIA | Phase 1e - LIA | Phase 1f - LIA-ERB | Phase 2 - Romano-British
Phase 3 - late RB | Phase 4-5 - sub RB- early med | Phase 6 - medieval-modern | phased posthole

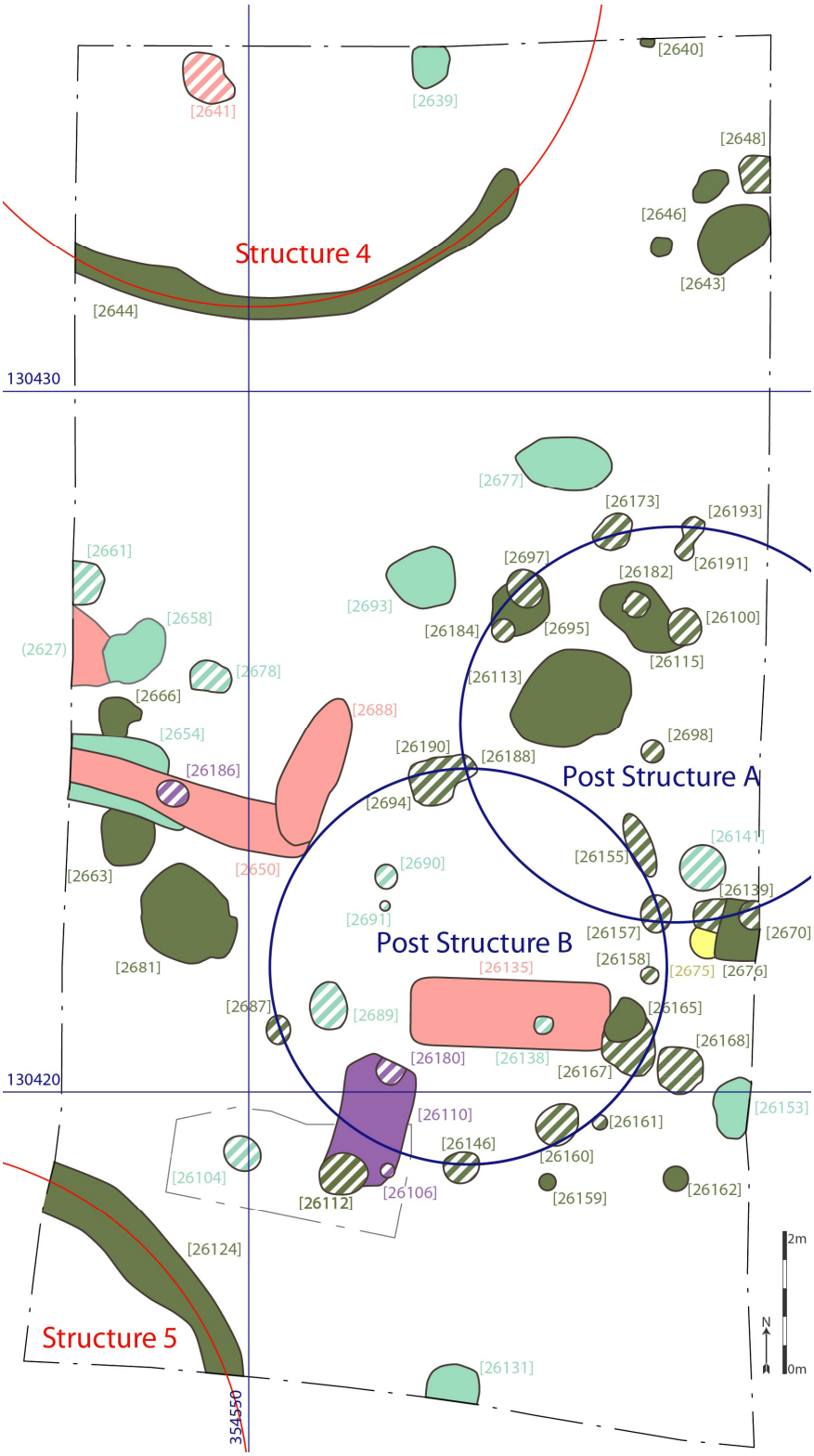


Figure 30. Area 26 phased features plan. 1:100 scale.

Phase 1a - Neolithic | Phase 1d - MIA | Phase 1e - LIA | Phase 1f - LIA-ERB | Phase 2 - Romano-British
Phase 3 - late RB | Phase 4-5 - sub RB- early med | Phase 6 - medieval-modern | phased posthole

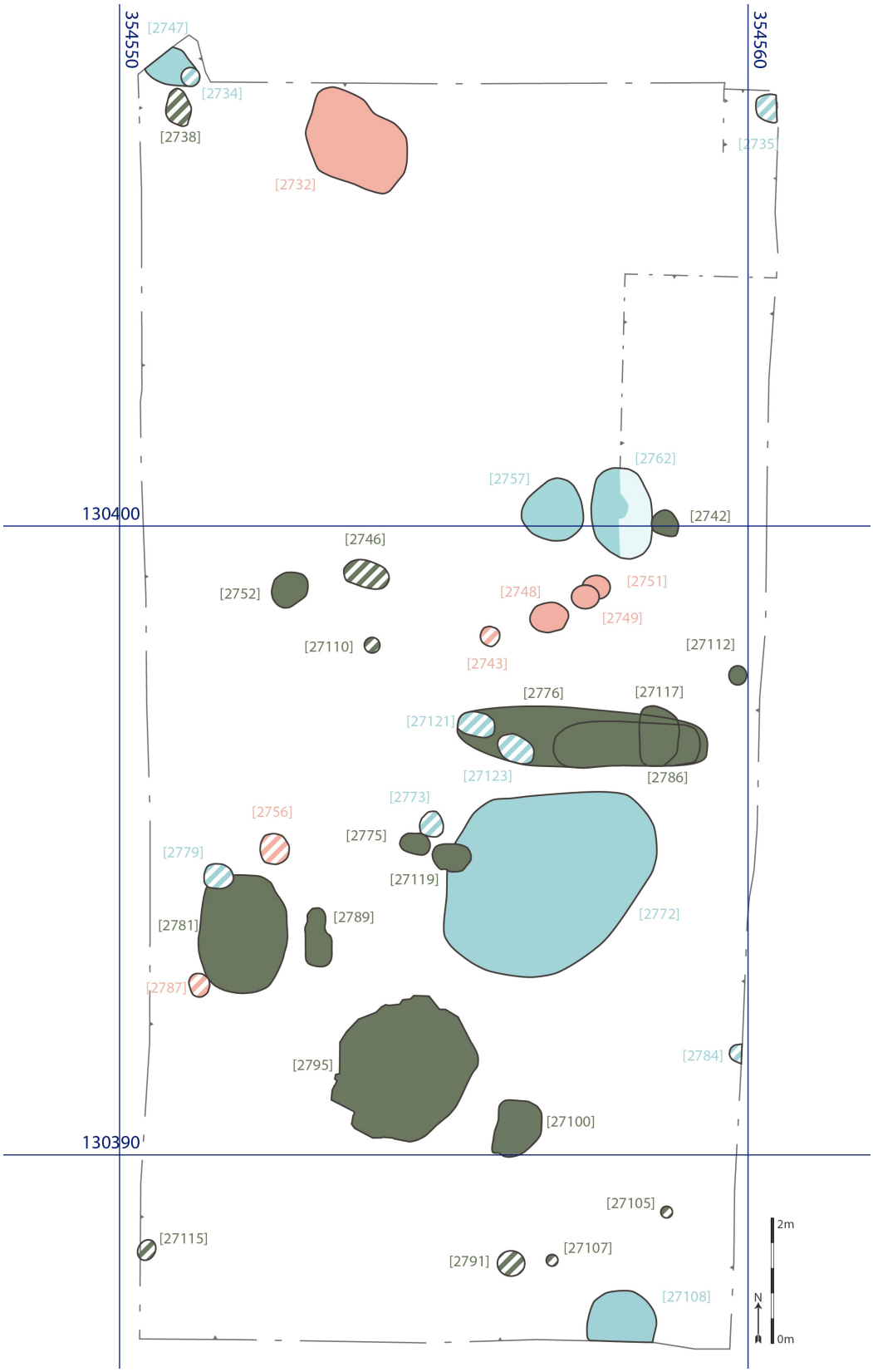


Figure 31. Area 27 phased features plan. 1:100 scale.

Phase 1a - Neolithic | Phase 1d - MIA | Phase 1e - LIA | Phase 1f - LIA-ERB | Phase 2 - Romano-British
Phase 3 - late RB | Phase 4-5 - sub RB- early med | Phase 6 - medieval-modern | phased posthole

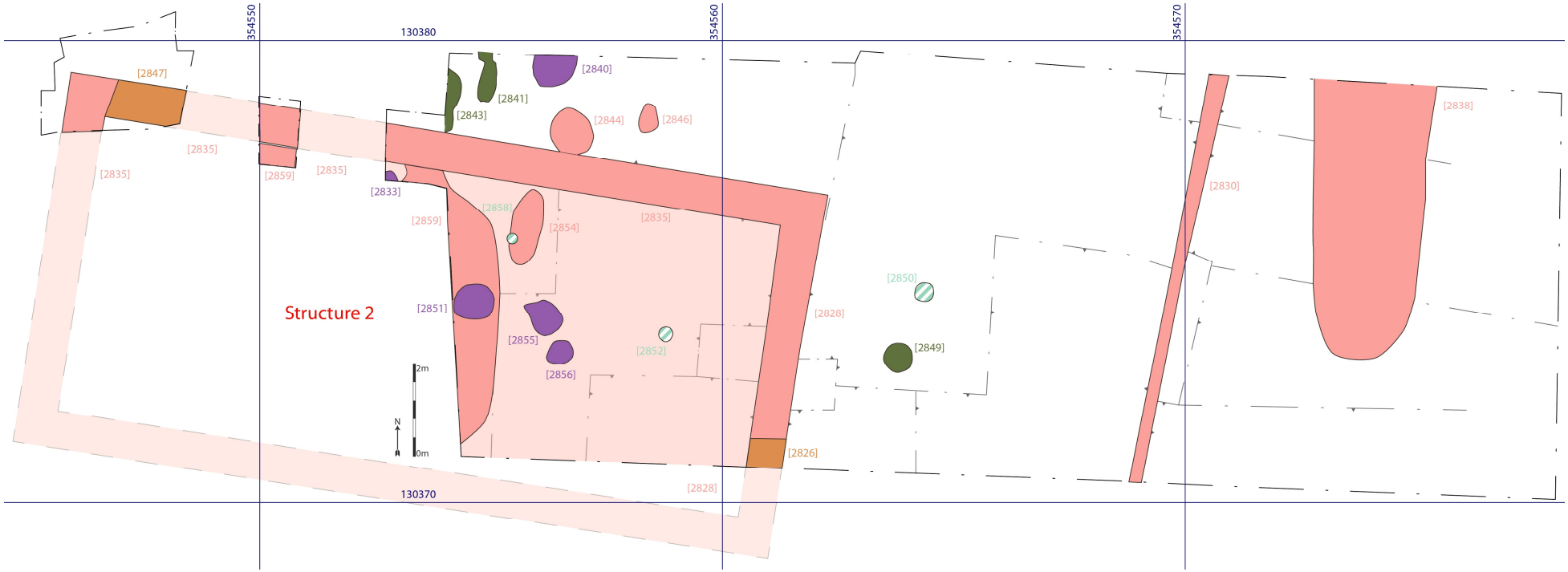


Figure 32. Area 28 phased features plan. 1:100 scale.

Phase 1a - Neolithic | Phase 1d - MIA | Phase 1e - LIA | Phase 1f - LIA-ERB | Phase 2 - Romano-British
Phase 3 - late RB | Phase 4-5 - sub RB- early med | Phase 6 - medieval-modern | phased posthole

8.0 Lakeview Quarry 2020 Archaeological Excavation Results
Prehistoric Period up to the Middle to Late Iron Age Site Phase 1a to Phase 1d

8.1 Neolithic & Bronze Age Site Phase 1a & Phase 1b

8.1.1 Overview Evidence for the earliest human activity on the site was established by the collection of around 300 items of worked flint and chert, including tools, worked flakes and arrowheads, and the exposure of a pit containing numerous large sherds of Grooved Ware pottery. This distinctive style of pottery has been dated to the later Neolithic period in southern Britain (3000-2500BCE).

8.1.2 Whilst specialist analysis of the Grooved Ware pottery can potentially provide a relatively accurate date for the vessel and its use prior to deposition, typological diagnostic analysis of the worked flint is more challenging as potential date ranges could extend from the earlier Neolithic through to the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age transition. A brief synopsis of the lithic assemblage is set out below in Chapter 8.2.

8.1.3 There were no features of chronologically discrete Bronze Age date recorded during the excavations. However, further detailed specialist analysis of both the Neolithic pottery and flint assemblages are likely to produce further results.

8.2 Material Culture: Flint and Chert

8.2.1 A total of 301 pieces of worked flint and chert were recovered from the 2020 excavations, alongside 9 (580g) large unworked flint and chert items, including a very large raw flint nodule collected from deposit 2702. The lithic assemblage from Keinton Mandeville was chronologically mixed, and displayed typological characteristics that suggest human activity on the site from as early as the later Mesolithic or early Neolithic to the Bronze Age.

8.2.2 Almost a third of the flint assemblage (32.5%) was collected from the site Phase 1a to Phase 1d subsoil and its associated features, which have been stratigraphically dated to the prehistoric up until around the Middle Iron Age period on an interim basis. The greater proportion of the lithic material (67.5%) was therefore recovered from later prehistoric features and the upper stratigraphic deposits. A range of factors account for this result, such as the residual incorporation of earlier material into later contexts by backfilling in antiquity; by disturbance due to displacement during later Iron Age and Romano-British activity, combined with medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity. The persistent use of flint into the later prehistoric period on a smaller scale can also not be discounted (Coles and Minnitt, 1995). The flint assemblage is discussed in detail within Chapter 13. Flint distribution plans are presented within Appendix 11.

8.3 Neolithic Grooved Ware Pit [2675]

8.3.1 Pit [2675] was located at NGR 354556.50 / 134422.10 (surface elevation 48.89mAOD) in the centre of an area with a high density of archaeological features near the west-facing section of the centre of Area 26. Hand cleaning over the area removed Phase 1e to 5 occupation deposit 2602, exposing a dense block of inter-cutting features. Grooved Ware pit cut [2675] was positioned at the SW-corner of this block, wherein it was cut through by posthole [26139] to the north and by rubble-filled pit [2676] to the east. Large posthole [2670] occupied the NE corner of the block of features where it cut through the northern edge of pit [2676]. Elements of these Phase 1d Iron Age features are discussed further within Chapter 9.

8.3.2 These features were located within a c.1.30m N-S x c.1.00m E-W sub-circular area characterised by disturbed soft ground, potentially partially explaining why so many features were positioned at this spot. Subsoil 2605 was preserved up to c.0.10m thick, containing an unusually high frequency of unsorted small to medium Lias stone, where it in turn overlay a c.0.10m thick layer of very mixed Lias clay and brash. The surface of the bedded limestone was encountered at 48.68mAOD, 0.20m beneath the surface of the subsoil. A c.0.15m–0.20m orange-red halo surrounded the edge of this area, most prominently at the base of the west-facing Area 26 section. It appeared most likely that the halo represented heat-affected subsoil and upper Lias clay.

However, due to the lack of inclusions within the halo, it cannot be discounted that the halo was produced by oxidised Lias clay 2608, although that deposit does tend to be stone free which was not the case here. This area was likely the remnants of a tree bole dating to no later than the Middle Neolithic. The intensity of inter-cutting features, and unusual disturbed stratigraphic deposits at this location created complexity regarding the excavation and interpretation of Grooved Ware pit [2675].

8.3.3 Approximately 25% of pit [2675] had therefore been removed along its north and east sides by IA pit [2676] and IA posthole [26139]. The southern half of pit [2675] was excavated first, exposing a carefully constructed cut with a regular circular plan (prior to truncation), measuring c.0.30m deep x c.0.55m in diameter, tapering down to c.0.35m in diameter onto a flat base formed by the surface of the bedded Lias stone, which stepped down 0.06m into the centre of the pit. The upper third of the cut was backfilled by 2672 above fills 2673, 2674, 2685 and 2686 contained within the tapering lower part of the cut (from the top down). All of the Grooved Ware sherds recovered during excavation were retrieved from within central fill 2673.

8.3.4 Upper fill 2672 was compacted, crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay up to c.0.12m thick. The fill contained occasional Lias stone and grits with rare instances of charcoal, fired clay lumps and flecks but no artefacts were recovered during excavation. Bulk sample <70> (10L) from fill 2672 deemed unsuitable for processing due to the extent of cross-contamination with upper fill 26134 from IA posthole [26139] which cut through the northern extent of pit [2675]. Fill 2672 was deposited above the Grooved Ware sherds, representing the backfilling of the pit after use.

8.3.5 Central fill 2673 was composed of slightly humic, firm, dark brown-grey clay. Charcoal and fired clay lumps (av. 5mm diameter) were present, becoming notably more frequent at the top of the fill, above the Grooved Ware sherds, wherein bright orange fired clay streaks up to 0.10m in length were observed, especially along the western edge of the cut. Fill 2673 extended up to 0.30m thick where it overlay the base of the centre of the cut, reducing to only 0.05m where it overlay the lower fills along its western and southern sides. Three blocky, rectangular Lias stones (av.50 x 70 x 100mm) were deposited into the centre of fill 2673, either flat or angled c.45° up to the east, with their bases lying upon the surfaces of the underlying pit fills. The eastern side of the mass of Grooved Ware pottery lay upon these stones.

8.3.6 A total of 32 large sherds of Grooved Ware pottery, weighing 1.1kg, were clustered at the centre of fill 2673, and assigned Special Finds SF-25 and SF-29. The sherds exteriors were decorated with chevrons made of short slashes, horizontal grooves and stabbed dots. All 17 sherds of SF-29 were handled with nitrile-free latex inspection gloves during excavation and wrapped in aluminium foil to avoid contamination. Four bulk samples were taken, collecting the entire context for further analysis. Samples <71> and <72>, of 8 litres and 2 litres respectively, collected the southern half of the fill, the northern 10 litres of the fill was bagged as sample <76> but subsequently deemed unreliable due to cross-contamination by IA posthole fill 26134 lower; and sample <77>, weighing 100g, retained the northern part of the fill under methodologically controlled conditions (Dunne, 2017). All 15 Grooved Ware sherds of SF-25, along with 11 sherds of SF-29 have been sent to Dr. Alistair Barclay of Cotswold Archaeology for identification, analysis and illustration. The remaining 6 Grooved Ware sherds of the SF-29 assemblage have been subjected to organic residue analysis (ORA) by Dr. Julie Dunne of the Organic Geochemistry Unit, University of Bristol. A full report of this process is included within Appendix 15. Both specialists were kindly requested to retain as much organic residue as possible for potential radiocarbon fourteen dating.

8.3.7 The basal c.0.10m of Grooved Ware pit [2695] was occupied by three thin, distinctly separate fills 2674, 2684 and 2685 (from the top down). The eastern extent of these three fills was limited by the angled Lias stone blocks at the centre of overlying fill 2673. The basal fills appear to be more or less contemporaneous depositions, directly associated with the use of the Grooved Ware vessel which was placed upon the surface of fill 2674 prior to the backfilling of the pit with fills 2673 and 2672. No artefactual material was present within the three basal fills.

8.3.8 Lowest fill 2686 and uppermost of the three basal fills 2674 were both c.0.05m thick, redeposited yellow Lias clay lenses, mixed with small quantities of brown silty clay. Lowest fill 2685 continuously lined the base of the cut, and was softer and stickier than fill 2674. Fill 2674, on the other hand, had been disturbed at the centre of the pit by the deposition of the Lias stone blocks within the overlying fill. A further fine distinction between these two similar fills was that fill 2674 contained rare inclusions of Lias stone grits and charcoal flecks, whereas lower fill 2686 had no significant inclusions. Two bulk samples were taken from fill 2674. Sample <73> (4L) collected lower fills 2674, 2685 and 2686 in combination from the southern half of the pit. Sample <79>, weighing 100g, was taken retained the north part of the fill. In addition to mixed sample <73>, a 100g bulk sample <80> from fill 2686 was also retained for potential ORA.

8.3.9 The main body of lower fill 2685 was c.0.04m thick, sandwiched between Lias clay fills 2674 and 2686. However, the fill also evenly lined the sides of the cut up to the base of upper backfill 2672. The fill was compacted dark brown-grey gritty clay containing frequent small, degraded Lias stone and grits, alongside rare charcoal and fired clay lumps and flecks. Although fill 2685 initially appeared to be a charcoal lens, inspection on site showed this not to be the case. Fill 2685 could be a deliberate lining of compacted silty clay; or possibly the partially degraded *in-situ* base of the Grooved Ware vessel, especially as base sherds were not present as part of the assemblage. Besides being retained within mixed sample <73>, fill 2685 was collected from the north half of the context within 100g sample <81>, and subsequently sent for ORA.

8.3.10 The excavation results were not easily interpreted due to the intensity of features in the area. Questions arising during the excavation of the feature included whether the heat affected clay was associated with cooking the Grooved Ware vessel contents; along with the rationale for the two layers of Lias clay lining at the base of the pit, and whether lower dark grey-brown fill 2686 was degraded pottery, or a compacted silty clay layer. If fill 2686 is shown to be degraded ceramics, then it is logical that the feature was used and re-lined on multiple occasions. Discussion of the Grooved Ware is presented within Chapter 13.

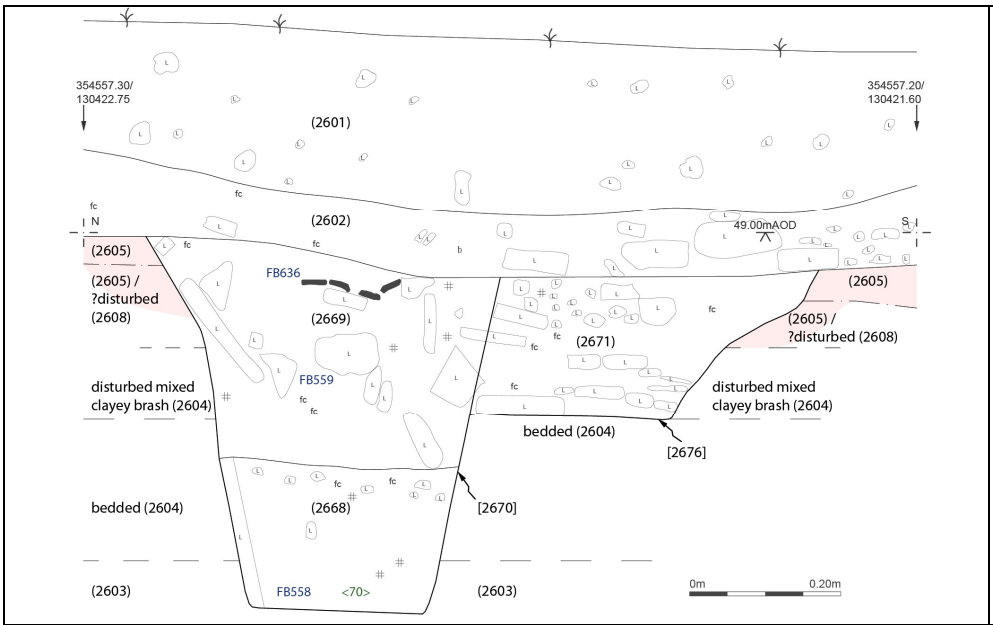


Figure 33.

West-facing section of posthole [2670] cutting through rubble-filled pit [2676] against the eastern Area 26 section.

Heat-affected clay marked in red.

1:10 scale.

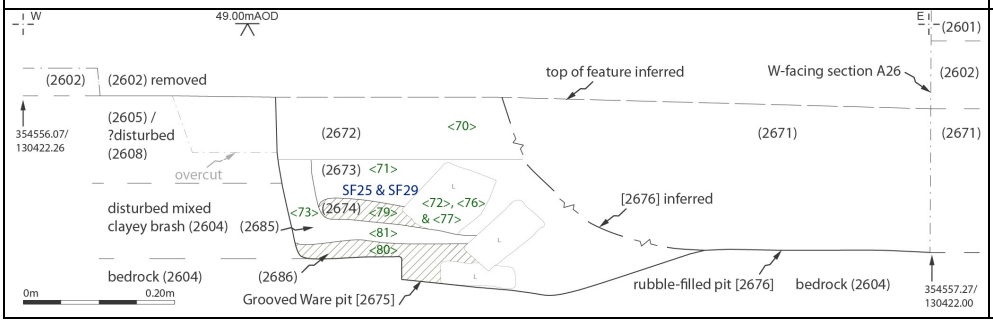


Figure 34. South-facing profile of pit [2675].
Grooved Ware sherds SF-25 & SF-29 (blue) and samples (green).

1:10 scale.

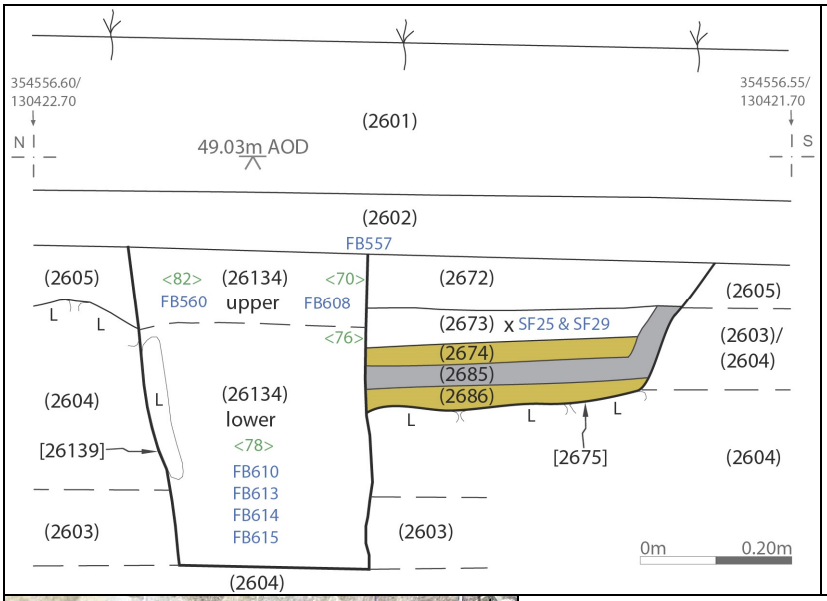


Figure 35.

West-facing section of NL Grooved Ware pit [2675] cut through by IA posthole [26139].

Overlying stratigraphy elevations are inferred from levels data.

Finds locations in blue, sample locations in green.

1:10 scale.

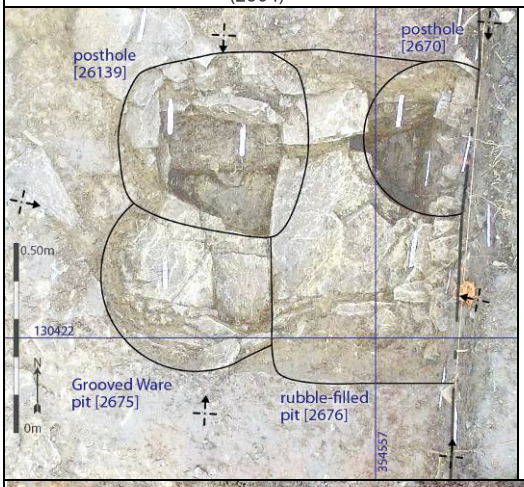


Figure 36.

Annotated drone photograph of the inter-cutting surrounding Grooved Ware pit [2675].100% excavated.

Datum points indicate section drawing lines.

1:20 scale.

Figure 37. (above). Photograph of Grooved Ware SF-25 during the excavation of the south half of pit [2675]. Looking N. 0.20m scale.

Figure 38. (above-right). Photograph of the S-facing profile of pit [2675]. Grooved Ware SF-29 visible within fill 2673. 0.20m scale.

Figure 39. (right). Annotated photograph of the south-facing profile of pit [2675]. 0.20m scale.

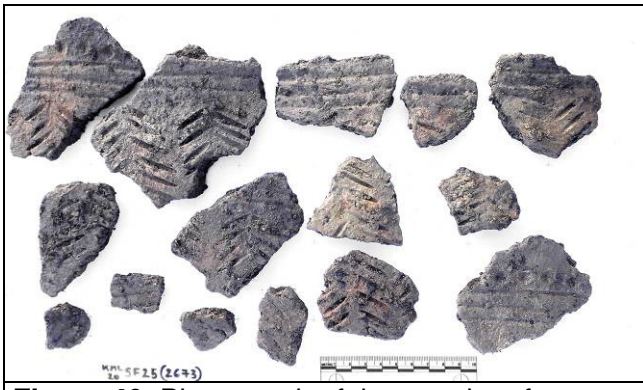


Figure 40. Photograph of the exterior of Grooved Ware sherds SF-25.
Recovered from the south half of fill 2673 within pit [2675]. Decoration including chevrons made of short slashes, horizontal grooves and stabbed dots - appears on most sherds. 0.10m scale.

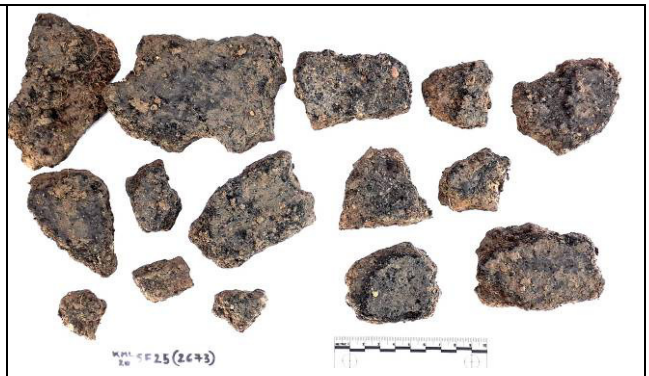


Figure 41.

Photograph of organic residue adhering to the interior of Grooved Ware sherds SF-25.
0.10m scale.

9.0 Lakeview Quarry 2020 Archaeological Excavation Results
The Earlier Phased Iron Age Settlement Site Phase 1c to Phase 1d

9.1 Site Phase 1d Summary Middle Iron Age Settlement Features have been stratigraphically assigned to site Phase 1d if they initially cut through red-brown subsoil #05, and were ultimately sealed beneath LIA-RB occupation deposit #02. Site Phase 1d represents the most archaeologically intensive period on this part of the site, incorporating many of the most significant features in relation to the nature and scale of the earlier stage of the development of the Iron Age settlement. The site Phase 1d features comprised of 3 x curvilinear gullies, 2 x inhumations, 28 x pits, 36 x postholes and 3 x stake holes (including re-cut features). All of the suggested Iron Age structures exposed during the 2020 season of works belong to this site phase. Phased site plans are presented with Appendix 1.

9.2 Phase 1d Structures – Eaves drip gullies

9.2.1 Portions of three curvilinear gullies were exposed within the Area 25 and 26 excavation areas, which have been interpreted as eaves drip gullies, providing evidence for the presence of Iron Age round houses during site Phase 1d. These gullies have subsequently been assigned Structure numbers 3, 4, and 5, from north to south, to summarise gullies [2547], [2644] and [26124] respectively.

9.2.2 Gullies [2644] and [261244] were alike, in that they were both cut through subsoil 2605 into the underlying Lias clay, and were eventually sealed beneath occupation deposit 2602 after silting up. These gullies measured between 0.20m-0.24m deep x c.0.50m wide, sharing rounded profiles and projected internal diameters of c.10m. A 2m wide SSE-facing entrance was recorded where ring ditch [2644] terminated, with the northern continuation of the feature traceable within the south-facing Area 26 section. The presence of postholes within the interior of the curvilinear gullies was investigated without result.

9.2.3 The SE-c.20% of gully [2547] was exposed at the NW-corner of A25, where ploughing had removed the stratified deposits, truncating the feature down to the bedrock which it was cut through. The feature has been tentatively assigned to site Phase 1d due to similarities with Structures 4 and 5. However, the bedrock-cut gully created an awkward, steep, truncated profile 0.10m deep x 0.40m wide, with a tight return to the north, indicating an oval-shaped building measuring 3.50m wide x 6.50m N-S. The ramifications of these factors was that phasing of Structure 3 remains tenuous, and the feature was less convincing as an eaves drip gully of a domestic round house, especially considering the reduced quantity of artefacts within its fill. It appears most probable therefore that Structure 3 represented an Iron Age building which served a non-domestic function.

9.2.4 Although only approximately 10% of southernmost gully [26124] was exposed it yielded the richest artefactual collection. Of the 190 Iron Age pottery sherds (851g) obtained from the three curvilinear gullies, 98 (440g) sherds were retrieved from the Structure 5 gully, including 8 x diagnostic IA rims and decorated sherds, whereas only 20 sherds were present within the truncated Structure 3 gully. Plentiful quantities of bone (222 fragments, 529g), fired clay (25 lumps, 103g collected), and charcoal were ubiquitous throughout the curvilinear gully fills, alongside a few waste flint flakes and chips. A dozen Fe metal working residue lumps (90g) were collected from within or immediately next to the Structure 3 gully. This collection represented 25% of the isolated Fe slag found on the site, with the exception of slag pit [26165], and thus is potentially indicative of the buildings function, an interpretation supported by analysis of the metal working residues presented within Chapter 13. Gully [26124] was also distinguished in that it contained two fills, being upper fill 2623 (0.21m thick) and lower, well sealed fill 26123 (0.03m thick) which was much more clayey in composition. Bone from the base of Structure 5 fill 26123 provides excellent C14 dating potential to supply scientific dates for the roundhouses.

9.3 Phase 1d Proposed Post Structures Analysis of the phased postholes has highlighted one oval and two circular configurations of postholes, sealed beneath occupation deposit #02, and therefore assigned to site Phase 1d. Three conjectural Post Structures have been proposed summarised as Post Structures A, B and C (to maintain distinction from Structures 1 to 5), occupying the spaces, more or less equidistantly, between roundhouse Structures 3, 4 and 5. The proposed Post Structures were comprised of similarly sized, well constructed postholes, between 0.30m – 0.60m deep x 0.30m - 0.55m diameter, with post packing stones often remaining *in-situ* within the fills. Iron Age pottery was present within the backfills of each post hole associated with the proposed Post Structures, with no pottery from later periods present.

9.3.1 Post Structures A and B were sited in the centre of Area 26, between Structures 4 and 5, in an area with an abundance of postholes and pits. These two circles of posts were created by rings of eight or nine posts, with 6m diameters. The edges of Post Structures A and B overlapped, ruling out their absolute contemporality. Excavation demonstrated that metal working pit [26165] was constructed after the backfilling of posthole [26167] from Post Structure B, negating an association between these two features.

9.3.2 Proposed Post Structure A surrounded large storage pit [26113], which might have been protected by the proposed small building when it was in use. This arrangement was echoed by Post Structure C, which encircled large storage pit [2542] / [2556]. Post Structure C was partly exposed along the western edge of A25 between Structures 3 and 4. The structure was slightly ovate at 5.20m NE-SW x 7.20m NW-SE, and therefore similarly sized to Post Structures A and B.

9.3.3 The three post structures proposed within Areas 25 and 26 are envisaged as being fairly insubstantial, functional shelters, with relatively lightweight roofs and if they had walls, they could have functioned primarily as wind breaks with daub. These factors could account for their occasionally irregularly spaced postholes, along with removal by later features and potential entrance ways. Similar layouts have been previously suggested at excavated Iron Age sites, a notable example being Danebury Ring hillfort (Cunliffe, 2013). There were no clear associations between Post Structure B with any excavated features.

9.4 Site Phase 1d Pits

9.4.1 Summary of the Phase 1d Pits A total of 28 pits were recorded which stratigraphically belonged to site Phase 1d. The volume of the pits varied in size from approximately 0.03m³ to 1.80m³, with a mean size of 0.25m deep x 1.00m diameter (c. 0.80m³ volume). Broad, shallow pits were typical of the excavated Phase 1d pits, with a few exceptions detailed below. Interim interpretations of the site Phase 1d pits concluded that the group comprised 7 x cooking pits, 2 x large grain storage pits, 2 x firepits, 1 x Fe slag pit, 1 x intercutting pit complex, 1 x animal burial, and 14 x pits with unidentified functions. The site Phase 1d pits therefore generally appeared to represent settlement-focussed domestic activities. A selection of the site Phase 1d pits have been presented for discussion.

9.4.2 Large Grain Storage Pits 2542 / 2556 & 26113 Pits [2542] / [2556] and [26113] were considerably larger than any other pits excavated during the project. These two features were comparable regarding the majority of their characteristics. They shared a depth of c.0.80m, and were sub-circular in plan, with undercutting sides (resulting from either repeated cleaning-out and/or intentional design), and flat bases onto bedded blue Lias bedrock. Pit [2542] / [2556] measured c.1.60m E-W x c.1.70m N-S, with an approximate volume of 1.80m³, making it the largest pit on the site. Pit [26113] measured c.1.75m NE-SW x c.1.45m NW-SE, which created an only slightly smaller sub-surface void of c.1.60m³. Large storage pits [26113] and [2542] / [2556] were associated with Post Structures A and C respectively (discussed above). Both pits were eventually deliberately backfilled using varying material compositions that cumulatively contained significant quantities of prehistoric pottery, along with animal bone, residual flint pieces, some Fe metal working residue, and a single fragment of Cu alloy. One distinction between these features was that pit [2556] was re-cut by [2542] in the centre of Area 25, which was not the case for pit [26113]. This result implies that cuts [2542] / [2556], being the larger of the two pits, was also subject to more prolongued use than pit [26113].

9.4.3 Large Storage Pit 2542 / 2556 Earlier storage pit cut [2556] was discernible extending up to 0.25m beyond the vertical sides of re-cut [2542]. The arrangement created a beehive profile for cut [2556], and a cylindrical profile for re-cut [2542], which cut through the Lias clay-rich earlier pit backfill 2555, contrasting with the later backfills which lacked the yellow Lias clay in their compositions. Basal fills 2555 lower, and 2554 within re-cut [2542] both contained abundant quantities of charcoal, the presence of which could be the result of deliberate burning episodes designed to both dry out the pit after winter storage and to eliminate residual colonies of harmful microflora prior to storing the following seasons grain (Reynolds, 1974, 11). A total of four distinct depositions backfilled pit re-cut [2542]. Large Lias bedrock sheets were common within basal fill 2554, and upper fill 2541 was composed of Lias rubble in a clay matrix to create firm ground after the feature was abandoned. The central fills were crumbly, dark brown silty clays to stickier lighter brown clay.

9.4.4 Dark brown-green silty clay 2554, the lowest fill, contained frequent charcoal inclusions. A total of 167 pottery sherds (1241g) of various fabrics (including rims and rim/body sherds) were retrieved from all fills along with 1341g of animal bone, 3 x fragments of iron slag (52g), 6 x pieces of residual flint (21g) and a small fragment of Cu alloy (SF20) was recovered from upper fill 2541. A total of 160g of fired clay fragments were collected, one of which was large enough to retain a stick-like impression, indicative of a wattle and daub structure, possibly remnants of Structure C which would have been taken down when the use of the pit was discontinued.

9.4.5 Large Storage Pit 26113 Pit [26113] had a noted undercut of c.10-15cm around the north-western base of the pit. Although not as pronounced as the re-cutting noted within pit [2542] / [2556], this element was indicative of a repeated cleaning out of the pit, presumably over an extensive time period. Five discrete backfills were identified, generally composed of crumbly to firm, dark brown-grey silty clays with occasional to moderate inclusions of charcoal and fired clay lumps and moderate to frequent Lias stones, some of which were fairly large. The inclusion of Lias stones within upper central fill 26117 was the most pronounced inclusion, with the stony material rammed into the clayey matrix of the deposit. A total of 98 sherds (840g) of prehistoric pottery were retrieved from all fills during excavation; certain fabrics from upper fill 2617 and central fills 26117 and 26119 were of particular interest. Provisionally identified as possible post-Deverel-Rimbury wares (Barclay, A, 9th August 2021, *pers comm.),* the presence of this particular material within the backfills could indicate an earlier date for decommissioning of the pit, potentially during the earlier part of the 1st millennium BCE. Additional finds included 620g of bone, collected from all of the backfill material, and a small lump of Fe slag (6g) from upper fill 2617. Five residual flint items were recovered, including 2 x flakes from fills 2617 and 26117, a leaf-shaped arrowhead from lower central fill 26118 and a large discoidal scraper (24g) from lower central fill 26119. Hexagonal-shaped flat Lias stone SF-35 (c.100mm diameter) with a small pierced hole in its centre was collected from within lowest fill 26120. This unusual artefact has been provisionally interpreted as a loom weight.

9.4.6 Discussion of the Large Storage Pits Experimental archaeological projects have established that while it is possible to store grain successfully in pits of a variety of shapes and sizes, the carbon dioxide and temperature patterns recorded during the trials indicated that the optimum shape of a pit was of a beehive type (Reynolds, 1974). The achievement of this type of pit can be seen as the result of a combination of factors. Cylindrical pits such as cut [26113], will eventually erode into a beehive-shaped profile, with seasonal cleaning accelerating the process. However, it is also reasonable to suggest that that the deliberate manufacture of the beehive shape, as represented by the profile of pit [2556], became the norm when the improved anaerobic conditions became apparent, aiding longevity of the stored grain and, ultimately, reducing wastage. The recut of pit [2556] by pit [2542] could therefore represent final attempt(s) to reuse the pit before its final abandonment. These considerations tend to lead to the conclusion that pit [26113] might be the earlier of the two, a notion reinforced by the presence of EIA post-Deverel-Rimbury wares above and within the features backfills.

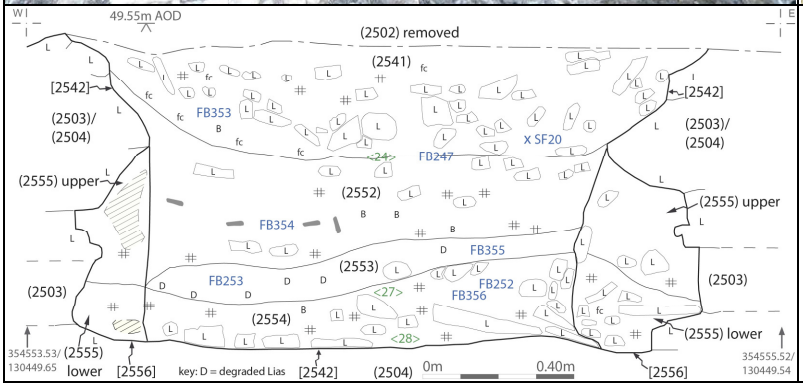


Figure 42. (above left). Photograph of south-facing profile of pit [2542] / [2556]. Looking north. 1m scale.

Figure 43. (above). Photograph of pit [2542] / [2556] 100% excavated. Looking north. 1m scale.

Figure 44. (left). South-facing profile of pit [2542] / [2556]. 1:20 scale.

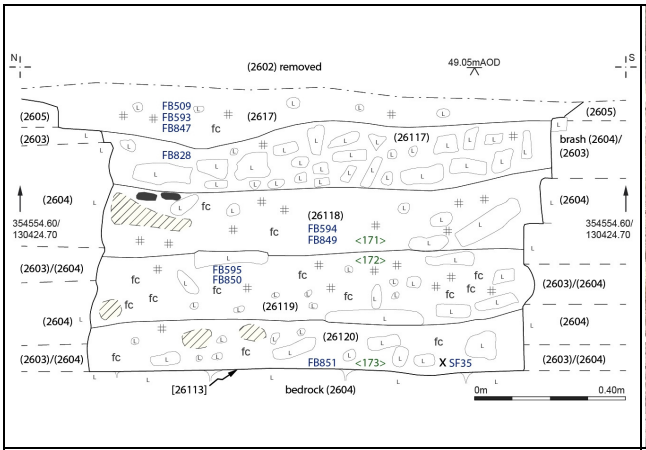


Figure 45. (left). West-facing profile of pit [26113]. 1:20 scale.

Figure 46. (above left). Photograph of the west-facing profile pit [26113]. Looking east. 0.50m scale.

9.5 Simple Iron Working Bloomery (non-tapping slag pit furnace) 26165

9.5.1 Simple iron-working bloomery [26165] was the sole feature of this type recorded during site work, and represented an example of industrial processes. The form of [26165] matches that of a non-tapping slag pit furnace. This typological interpretation was corroborated by the lack of tap slag within the feature. This form of furnace was prevalent in Britain between C8th-C1st BCE (Historic England, 2018). Only the subterranean slag pit had survived, the superstructure having been removed prior to the deposition of deposit 2602, which had infilled the top of the pit (recorded as fill 26144). The surviving components consisted of c.0.30m deep unhomogenised charcoal and Fe slag mixed fill 26163 and heavily heat-affected Lias stone and clay setting 26164. The bloomery was cut through the northern half of large posthole [26167], and so therefore post-dated proposed Post Structure B. The loose backfill of posthole [26167] apparently required significantly thicker furnace lining 26164 on the south side of the cut to act as reinforcement. Consequently, it seems unlikely that the creator of the furnace was unaware of the presence of the earlier posthole, suggesting that the features were separated by the passage of at least several years.

9.5.2 Slag pit 26163 contained a total of seven sherds of Iron Age pottery with a combined weight of 48.5g. The sherds were of the standard reduced fabric with shelly temper type found in Iron Age contexts across the site, although the smallest sherd bore linear decoration. No bloom was present within the fill. A large fragment of ceramic furnace lining that was recovered from the surface of posthole [25158] is theorised to belong to slag pit [26165], c.0.30m to the south.

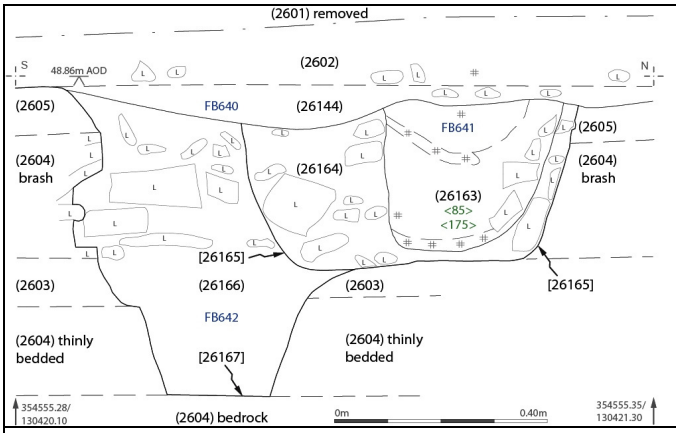


Figure 47. East-facing profile of slag pit [26165] cutting through Post Structure B posthole [26167].

Figure 48. Photograph of the east-facing profile of slag pit [26165] cutting posthole [26167] - c.90% excavated. 0.50m scales.

9.7 Pit Complex 2568 Cut [2568] was assigned to represent an irregular elongated re-cut pit or inter-cutting complex of shallow, concave features, which stretched out over a c.1.30m NW-SE x c.2.38m NE-SW distance, and extended in depth up to 0.30m. The side of the cut at the NE terminal was steep, cutting through Lias clay 2503 onto a flat base formed by Lias bedrock 2504. The central basal area of the pit was more irregular, with the steep, irregular SW side of the pit cutting through Lias clay and brash. Fills 2564, 2566, 2567 and 2582 have been summarised as filling pit cut [2568]. Although it recognised that some or all of these fills might have initially occupied separate cuts, the intercutting relationships between these features would have made the assigning of distinct cut numbers impracticable.

9.7.1 The earliest material deposited within pit [2568] was fill 2582, which encircled the edges of the feature and lined some of the base, suggesting that cut [2568] was potentially laid out with similar dimensions to its final form. Compact brown-yellow clay fill 2582 contained a high frequency of Lias stones, with some pitched vertically, and occasional large lumps of charcoal. The fill also contained a large volume of animal teeth and bone (425g), including a jaw bone. Only 1 x large IA pottery sherd and 2 sherds with inscribed décor (total 76g) were collected. A residual flint blade was also present alongside 1 x flint thumbnail scraper and fragments of flint waste.

9.7.2 Dark brown, charcoal-rich clay fill 2564 overlay backfill 2582 at the south-western extent of the pit, which in turn underlay stony dark brown-yellow silty clay fill 2566, which represented a backfilling event that removed the eastern part of fill 2564. No finds were collected from fill 2566.

9.7.3 The section profile indicates that dark brown-black silty fill 2567 was the final deposition within pit complex [2568]. It contained very high volumes of charcoal lumps, and had removed the eastern and western portions of fills 2566 and 2582 respectively, creating what appeared to be a scoop-like feature to accommodate waste material from a cooking fire. Although no evidence of food waste was collected 11 x small sherds of prehistoric pottery (64g) were recovered during excavation.

9.7.4 Pit complex [2568] contained low volumes of artefactual material considering its size, and the materials were inconsistently distributed throughout the fills. Only 33 IA pottery sherds (345g) were collected from the feature, although at c.10g the average sherd was above the average size. The majority of pot sherds were from central fill 2564, some of which were quite large, with only a few IA sherds present within the other fills and none from fill 2566. Conversely a rich collection of animal bone was collected from lowest fill 2582, with only one bone collected from the other fills. Fired clay lumps were also sparse.

9.7.5 The results from excavating pit complex [2568] were not easily interpreted. The inconsistencies of the backfill compositions and inclusions indicate a lack of uniformity, suggesting that they were either an *ad hoc* collection of inter-cutting pits of various utility, or not ultimately relevant to the function of the feature, as it was clearly not used for the deposition of waste. A further interpretive clue for pit [2568] was suggested by the apparent, partially exposed gully, around 0.15m deep x 0.20m wide, which appeared to continue westward from the top of the western edge of the cut. Although speculative due to the limits of excavation, it is possible that pit [2568] collected run-off from this gully, in association with non-domestic activities such as the preparation of animal hide. Pit complex [2568] could therefore have been a working hollow, rather than a pit in the conventional sense, which would account for its substantial size, shallow depth and irregular shape. A large Lias slab had been deliberately placed above the proposed gully, presumably to act as hard standing to mitigate ground saturation.

Figure 49. Photograph of south east-facing profile of intercutting pit complex [2568]. Looking north-west. 1m horizontal and 0.20m vertical scales.

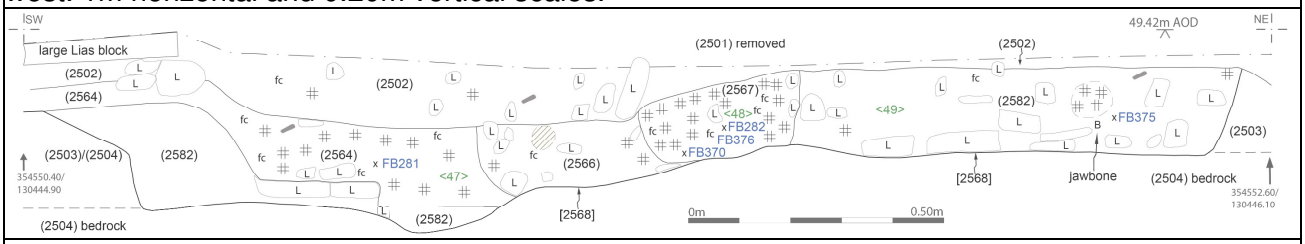


Figure 50. South east-facing profile of intercutting pit complex [2568]. 1:20 scale.

9.8 Pit 2681 Broad, shallow pit [2681] has been included to represent a good example of preservation and clear stratigraphic positioning. It was located in close proximity to site phase 1d pit [2663] and Post Structure B posthole [2687]. Pit [2681] contained three distinct fills. Clay-rich lower fill 2680 had a sticky texture and contained very few inclusions and finds. Central fill 2679 contained occasional IA pottery sherds as well as the broken tip of a leaf-shaped flint

arrowhead. The base of fill 2679 was marked by a horizon of small Lias stones. Upper fill 2621 was siltier than the lower fills, and contained several large sherds of IA pottery, including multiple rims and a decorated sherd. A central concentration of fired clay lumps was present within fill 2621 as well as large quantity of Lias stone at the base of the fill on the east side of the feature.

9.8.1 The purpose of pit [2681] was difficult to ascertain. The shallow aspect of the cut would not have provided a great deal of storage space. The paucity of inclusions in the lower fills discounts the possibility that it served as a rubbish pit. A large circular depression up to c.70mm deep existed at the base of the feature, although this may have been a natural hollow at a break in the upper bed of Lias, infilled by lower fill 2680. Pit [2681] may be related to Post Structure B, c.1.00m to the east, or to Structure 5, situated c.5.00m to the south.

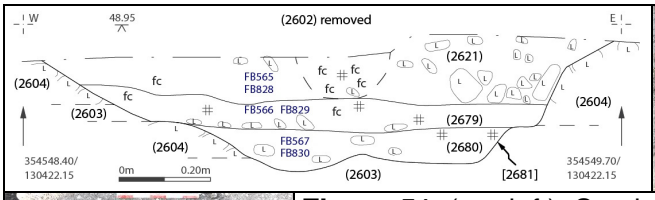


Figure 51. (top-left). South-facing profile of pit [2681].

Figure 52. (top-right). Photograph of the south-facing profile of pit [2681]. 0.50m scale.

Figure 53. (bottom-left). Photograph of pit [2681] 100% excavated, showing central, circular depression. 0.50m scale at top.

9.9 Iron Age Inhumations Sk1 & Sk2 (Appendix 5) Site Phase 1d

9.9.1 Sk1 & Sk2 Overview Two inhumations were uncovered during the 2020 excavations. These discoveries were anticipated as the 2009 evaluation trenches had exposed, but not exhumed, at least three inhumations and one possible cremation, positioned at both the north and southern ends of West Field, implying that burials were likely to be scattered throughout the area (Chapter 3.4.10). The two human skeletons were encountered in close proximity to one-another, towards the southern end of Area 27 (NGR 354554 / 130392), separated by a distance of only c.1m. They were sited topographically on locally high ground (c.48mAOD), at the break of the southern slope of 'Kings Hill', corresponding with what appears to be the southern edge of the Iron Age settlement. Both of the inhumations were interred within deliberately excavated grave cuts, rather than being deposited within features which previously served separate functions such as storage pits, and consisted of infant burial Sk1, and adult burial Sk2.

9.9.2 The neatly arranged placement of the two inhumations implied that their creators might have been aware of the existence of one or other of the interred remains, raising the possibility that they were either broadly or directly associated features. Adult inhumation Sk2 presented far more stratigraphic and artefactual evidence that the occupant of the substantially sized circular grave lived during Iron Age Site Phase 1d, than for infant inhumation Sk1, who was tightly interred within a small grave cut, containing few datable finds, with the overlying soils removed by machining. Infant skeleton Sk1 has been assigned to the same site phase as Sk2 on a preliminary basis pending radiocarbon determinations, due to their apparent association. Other broadly contemporaneous Iron Age features recorded within this part of the site include animal burial [2781] which was located 0.30m west of Sk2 and cooking pit [27100] c.1m south-east of Sk2. Midden cut [2772] lay within 1m-2m north and east of the graves, and its associated deposit 2702A near flush to the eastern edge of Sk2 grave cut [2795]. The implication of this arrangement was that the graves were sited nearby, yet deliberately avoiding this part of the site, which has been interpreted as a middening area. None of the postholes recorded at the southern end of Area 27 appeared to have been directly associated with the inhumations.

9.9.3 Infant Iron Age Inhumation Sk1 Infant burial Sk1 was interred at the base of sub-oval shaped grave cut [2789], prior to being covered by grave fill 2788, which was characterised by an abundance of rough Lias rubble blocks up to 220mm (80%) within a compact, crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay matrix. The Lias rubble within the grave fill was the backfilled spoil from the grave excavation, which was sited upon an outcrop of the bedded Lias at the top of the southern hillslope. Grave [2789] was consequently excavated through six or seven thin beds of Lias bedrock, with the sides stepping abruptly inwards towards the small flat base. The grave measured 0.27m deep x up to 0.44m wide. The long axis of the cut was oriented due north-south with a total length up to 0.94m. The northern 0.40m of the cut was defined by a regular sided, 0.10m deep step, which bottomed-out onto the flat surface of a hard bed of Lias stone. This area appears to have been the initial choice of excavation, which was aborted after encountering a bedrock layer too well bedded to penetrate. The finished grave therefore properly measured 0.54m between the tops of the southern and northern slopes.

9.9.4 The abundance of redeposited bedrock within grave fill 2788 had severely damaged the small bones of the Sk1 skeleton, which was placed with the head resting half-way up the northern side of the cut, facing south-east, resting upon an *ad hoc* Lias shelf. The feet were placed at the break of slope-base of the south side of the cut, and although some of the bones had undoubtedly been displaced, with the pelvic region pulverised by Lias rubble, enough of the skeleton remained to suggest that it was most likely an articulated crouched burial, which was slightly shifted over onto it's left side, with the left arm and hand placed upon the chest.

9.9.5 The finds from grave fill 2788 were collected as find bags 723 (east half) and 734 (west half). Grave fill 2788 contained three sherds of modestly-sized Iron Age pottery, along with a few animal bone fragments, including one burnt bone. It is possible that some of the bone and teeth collected in find bags 723 and 724 contain displaced bone and / or teeth from Sk1.

9.9.6 A 0.10m squared grid was set-out on the National Grid across the grave to collect the Sk1 skeletal remains. Seven find bag numbers were assigned (find bag 728 - 734), with each number corresponding with a grid square (see Appendix 5). The finds bags collected a total of 215 bone fragments, weighing 151.8g. No other artefactual material was included within these find bags. The entirety of the soil matrix of grave fill 2788 was sampled by <122> (east half) and <123> (west half) for palaeoenvironmental analysis and further artefactual retrieval.

9.9.7 Animal burial Pit 2781 Sub-oval pit [2781] was sited at a distance of only 0.30m due west of Sk1 grave pit [2789], with a parallel N-S aligned long axis, creating the appearance of contemporality, and perceived potential for direct relationship to the Sk1 funerary rite. This suggestion is reinforced by the scarcity of features recorded on the site which conform to a N-S alignment, which was slightly divergence to the predominant NNE-SSW layout.

9.9.8 Pit [2781] contained fills 2720 and 2780, alongside animal burial ABG 2780. Pit [2781] was an unusual ABG feature for the site in several regards. Firstly, this was potentially the only ABG feature to not contain a caprid burial. Secondly the pit itself well exceeded the size necessary for the animal burial at 0.11m-0.22m deep x 1.35m wide x 1.80m N-S, whereas the other ABG features were characterised by neatly cut, shallow, dished profiles, with tight-fitting burials. Cut [2781] was in contrast, crudely roughed out by the removal of limestone blocks from the bedded Lias outcropping at this part of the site. This resulted in an irregular feature profile. The south, east and west sides were stepped through Lias beds, down to a near-flat base, c.0.75m in length N-S, at the southern end of the feature. The northernmost c.1m of the pit was defined by a very gradual down-slope on well bedded Lias sheets, which then abruptly stepped down 0.10m to the feature's base. This arrangement echoed the design of Sk1 grave pit [2789], which also had a shallow northern end that led to an abrupt step down to its base, at the same northing of 130392.3mN. The south end of pit [2781] was truncated by the northern edge of medieval furrow [2795].

9.9.9 ABG 2780 was positioned just above the base of the pit, butted-up to the vertically stepped side. The assemblage consisted of disarticulated, or occasionally semi-articulated bones,

representing approximately 30% of the original skeleton. The bones were not arranged in a structured manner, and many were cracked &/or split longitudinally. There was no skull, but a mandible and teeth, provisionally identified as porcine, were recovered, along with long bones, ribs, and possibly a scapula. The burial itself was dispersed across the feature's base, covering c.0.10m x 50m x 50m N-S. ABG 2780 comprised 264 bone fragments, weighing 792g, including 3 x burnt bone and 1 x small bone which had been smoothed to a point (?bone needle).

9.9.10 The northern, shallower part of pit [2781] was backfilled by fill 2720, wherein fill 2780 was deposited within the deeper, southern half of the feature, immediately above the burial. The reason for this arrangement appears to be that whereas both fills were composed of the same crumbly, dark brown silty clay matrix, backfill 2780 contained a high frequency of Lias rubble blocks and sheets (av.250mm), presumably to protect the burial from scavengers. Charcoal lumps from fill 2780 were collected for analysis, as was a bag of large fired clay fragments (89.7g). A total of 57 IA pottery sherds (296g) were collected from the feature, alongside a large, smooth, possible hammer stone (60g), 2 x flint flakes and a flint core.

9.9.11 Whilst specialist analysis of ABG 2780 is ongoing at the time of writing, it must be acknowledged that if the bone group does represent pig remains, then a possible association with infant inhumation Sk.1 within grave cut [2789] cannot be ruled out. Extensive data derived from the analysis of ABG assemblages collected from numerous excavations of Iron Age sites across southern Britain show that pig remains comprise a small proportion of the assemblage in relation to a Middle Iron Age context when compared to other species, such as sheep, cattle and horse (Morris, 2011, 43-46). However, this small proportion of pig, c.17%, increases to c.66% when the species was associated with human burial contexts. There is, therefore, potential for ABG 2870 to be considered a 'special deposit' if an association with Sk.1 can be established by scientific analysis, i.e. radiocarbon dating, of both the human and animal remains.

9.9.12 Adult Iron Age Crouched Inhumation Sk2 Adult crouched inhumation Sk2 was placed at the centre of a well constructed circular cut which measured 0.20m (E) - 0.30m (W) deep x c.2.30m diameter (c.1m³ volume), too broad and shallow to have been used for an alternative purpose prior to the deposition of the body. The grave was cut with vertical sides through the surface of subsoil 2705. The upper 0.08m - 0.15m of the feature removed a thin band of Lias bedrock, which overlay a soft layer of yellow Lias clay. The south and western sides of the cut (up to 0.60m) removed up to 3 thin layers of bedded Lias, which gradually stepped inwards, up to the edge of the vertical sides of the cut. Therefore, the diameter of the deeper component of the grave measured c.2.00m. The body was placed centrally within the deeper portion of the feature. The main cut of the feature was described by cut number [2795], and the gently undercut lower sides by cut [2797] / fill 2796. This additional cut number was assigned at an early stage of excavation to investigate the possibility that the feature was a re-purposed storage pit, which was subsequently discounted. Cut [2797] appears to have been the product of either, over-digging through the soft Lias clay; or by a period of weathering prior to backfilling.

9.9.13 The flat base of grave cut [2795] was formed by the surface of a lower bedrock layer, which was interspersed with gritty Lias clay. The base of the feature was subdivided into two flat sections, joined by a gentle c.0.06m high x c.0.30m wide, NNE-SSW aligned slope. It is notable in this regard that the lower south and western sides of the feature displayed more prominent undercutting up to 0.10m, as opposed to <0.03m along the higher east and northern sides. This result indicates that undercut [2797] was likely the product of accumulating rain water due to exposure (which did not rapidly drain during site work). Furthermore, the undercut extended sharply beneath large, flat bedrock sheets at the lowest, southern side of the cut, which would have been an impractical and unusual action to have carried out during grave digging.

9.9.14 Two simultaneous modifications were made to pit [2795] prior to the deposition of Sk2. Sub-oval, kidney-shaped cut-out [2799] reduced the central-upper surface of the base of the grave over an area 0.05m deep x 0.55m wide x 0.90m ENE-WSW. The cut-out in the base of the feature was designed to brace the lower back and hips of the crouched burial, to hold it in position. The

base of cut-out [2799] was centred on NGR 354554.5 / 130391.4 at an elevation of 48.00mAOD. Crescent-shaped, stone setting 2794 surrounded the western end of cut-out [2799]. The stone setting overlay the slope within the base of the feature, and was composed of two or three random courses of Lias rubble blocks (av.20 x 100 x 200mm - 20L total volume), bonded together with silty dark brown clay, containing frequent charcoal and fired clay inclusions, alongside daub fragments with stick impressions and 14 x IA pottery sherds. Stone setting 2794 stood 0.15m high x 0.25m-0.30m wide. It covered an area 0.63m ENE-WSW x 0.83m NNW-SSE - accommodating a central void approximately 0.33m diameter.

9.9.15 Skeleton Sk2 was oriented ENE-WSW (N74°E) with the head resting at a steep angle upon stone setting 2794, facing eastwards. The crouched burial was laid out with the arms crossed over the chest in the 'boxer' posture, overlain by the knees. The leg bones traversed over to the left side of the body with the lower right leg and foot resting above the left leg. The pelvis, spine, ribs and shoulders rested squarely upon the floor of cut [2799]. The skeletal remains had incurred localised damage caused by rubble within the backfill. Rubble had cracked the skull, removed teeth, cracked ribs, caused some superficial damage to the limbs and pelvis, and dislodged several foot bones. No disarticulated bone was observed in the field. Skeleton Sk2 was lifted in localised sections and collected within finds bags 749 to 761, comprising a total of 361 individual bones, teeth and fragments, weighing c.1.5kg. The crouched burial covered an area 0.32m NNE-SSW x 0.84m ENE-WSW. On site measurements indicated that the interred individual was the best part of 6ft tall, and well built, with broad shoulders and pelvis, and thick vertebrae.

9.9.16 Four distinct depositions of grave fill were recorded. The grave fill below Sk2 was recorded as fill 2798, which probably equated to the same material and action as lower rubble-rich grave fill 2793, which itself covered the interred body up to the contemporary ground surface in a localised area extending 0.65m N-S x 0.90m E-W, continuing eastwards from stone setting 2794. Lias rubble blocks up to c.250mm were placed around the perimeter of cut-out [2799] to neatly contain the deposition of grave fill 2793 over the body. Backfill 2792 occupied the lower 0.12m of the feature, surrounding stones 2794 and fill 2793. Fill 2792 also contained appreciable quantities of larger rubble blocks, especially at the southern edge of the feature, which was deposited up to the surface level of stone setting 2794 at around 48.10mAOD. Fill 2722 was deposited across the upper half of the grave, flush with upper reaches of rubble-rich fill 2793, as the final act of the process. A rectangular Lias slab c.100 x 160 x 250mm laid flat upon the surface of grave fills 2722 and 2793, immediately above the interred body. This rubble block was unusually large for the fills and deposits which immediately surrounded it, which contained low volumes of small to medium sized stone, and therefore prominently stood out. The Sk2 grave section dictates that this stone would have been visible at ground level when the grave was in-filled. It has been suggested that this stone might have acted as a rudimentary grave marker.

9.9.17 It was fortunate that excavation Block 7 retained a mass of occupation deposit 2702 to the south-east of cut 2795 from being removed by machining. The full extent of the grave was revealed during the hand-removal of the block. A 0.20m N-S strip of deposit 2702, overlying fill 2722 and sealing grave 2795, was left *in-situ* across the centre of the feature during the excavation (Figures 63 to 65 below). The northern c.1m of the feature was truncated by the base of medieval plough furrow [2795] with a gently curved profile up to 0.10m at the deepest point.

grave fill	composition	inclusions (not including artefacts)
2798	soft, crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay w/ sm. Lias clay inclusions (15%)	occasional small stones and charcoal
2793	compact, crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay (20%)	abundant Lias rubble - av.100mm up to 20 x 150 x 200mm (40L), fired clay & daub lumps w/ stick impressions
2792	crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay w/ re-deposited Lias clay patches (40%)	frequent Lias rubble av.20 x 150 x 150mm - up to 40 x 300 x 330mm, fired clay rich with ?daub & furnace lining
2722	loose, crumbly, green-brown-grey silty clay	frequent fired clay w/ daub & ?furnace lining, moderate quantities of charcoal, Lias stone & grits

Figure 54. Summary table of the compositions & inclusions of the Sk2 grave fills.

fill	IA pottery		fired clay		faunal remains	
	qty	wt	qty	wt	qty	wt
2722	134	859.7	115	733.5	78	353.4
2792	37	188.3	54	278.9	30	109.9
2793	35	182.5	37	384.7	11	38.6
2798	5	13.1	40	98.1	none	none
2794	14	121.6	1	0.7	11	37.8
totals	**225**	**1365.2g**	**287**	**1594g**	**130**	**539.7g**

Figure 55. Summary table of the finds from the Sk2 grave fills.

9.9.18 The artefactual assemblage collected from the Sk2 grave fills was particularly rich in Iron Age pottery sherds, fired clay lumps, and bone fragments. Much of the artefactual material was undoubtedly residual, derived from subsoil 2705, which was used for backfilling. However, the quantity of finds from the grave comfortably exceeded the average sum total that would be retrieved from the same volume of the subsoil (approximately 0.60m³ when the mass of rubble in the fills is subtracted from the total). Therefore, a good proportion of the finds from the grave would have been contemporaneous depositions, possibly in some instances related to social activity surrounding the funeral rite (such as feasting). Unusually large quantities of daub with stick impressions, and possibly furnace lining, were recorded from the grave fills by the field archaeologists. A possible large, smooth sharpening stone was also collected from the feature, as was a fine, discontinuous 2mm thick x 20mm diameter earring, SF-33, found c.0.15m to the west of the left side of the Sk2 skull. This artefact has been interpreted as an ear ring belonging to the grave occupant as the object was at level with skull.

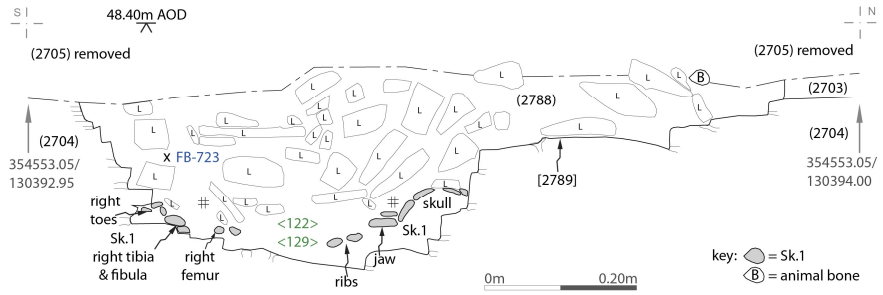


Figure 56.

East-facing section of grave cut [2789] with infant inhumation Sk1.
1:10 scale.

Figure 57.

Photograph of the east-facing section of grave cut [2789] with the infant inhumation Sk1 skull partially visible at the bottom-left.

0.20m scale.

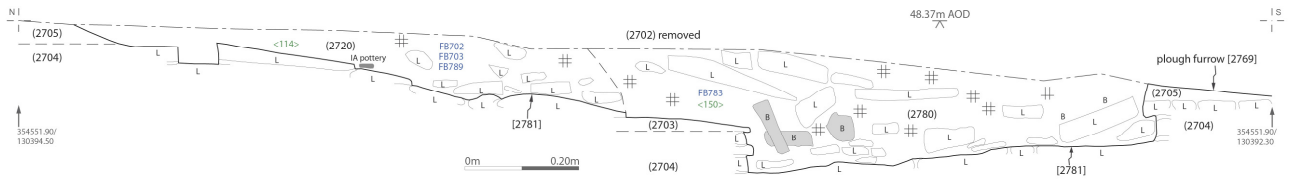


Figure 58. West-facing profile of pit [2781] with ABG 2780 (coloured grey).

Figure 59.

Photograph of the west-facing profile of pit [2781] with ABG 2780.

0.50m scale.

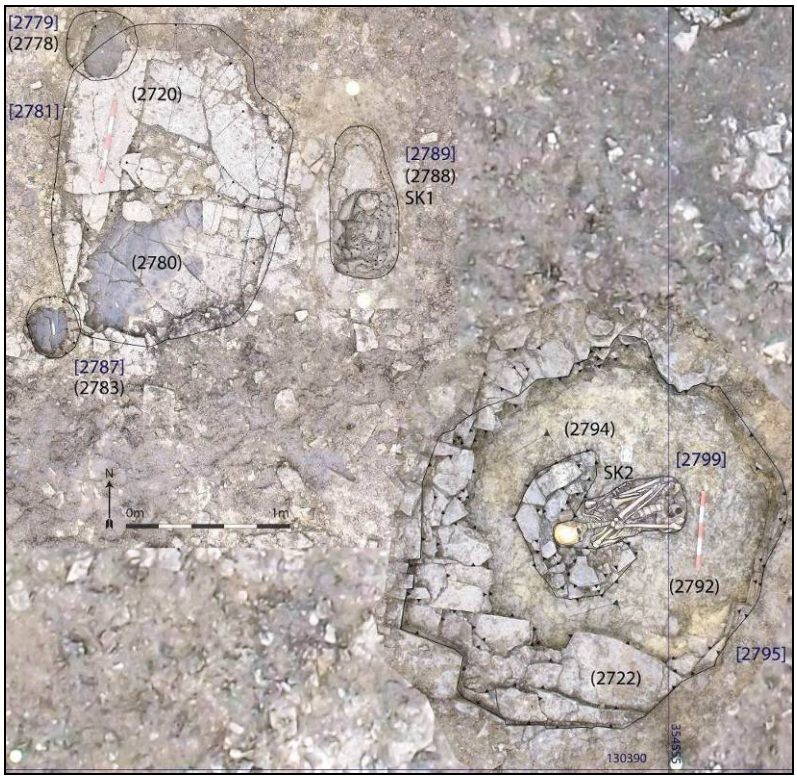


Figure 60.

Annotated drone photograph of inhumations Sk1, Sk2 and ABG 2780.

Composite drone images showing both skeletons fully exposed *in-situ*.

Topographic schematic overlay and cut outlines. Removed fill context numbers are indicated.

North to top.
0.50m scales.

1:50 scale.

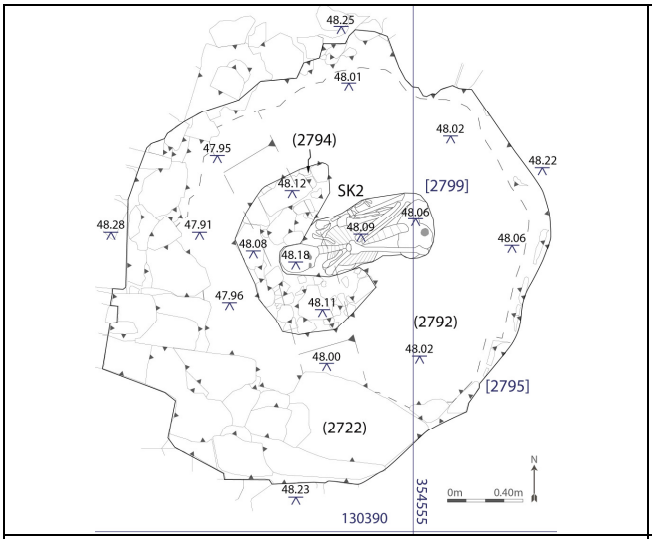


Figure 61. Grave cut [2795] plan with Sk2 & stone setting 2794 *in-situ*. 1:50 scale.

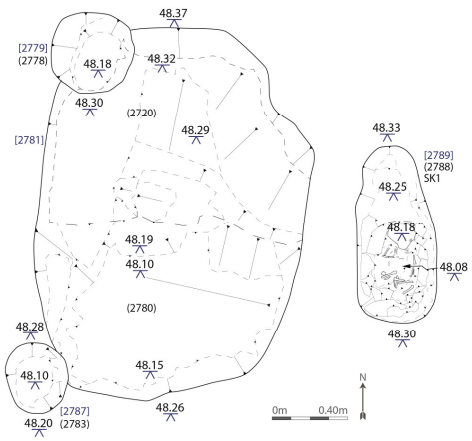


Figure 62. Grave cut [2789] plan and animal burial pit [2781] with Sk1 *in-situ*. 1:50 scale.

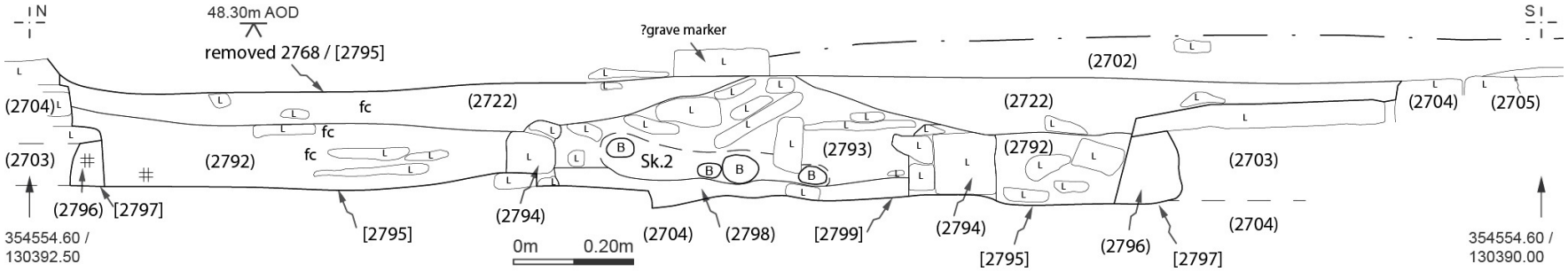


Figure 63. West-facing section of grave cut [2795] for adult inhumation Sk2.

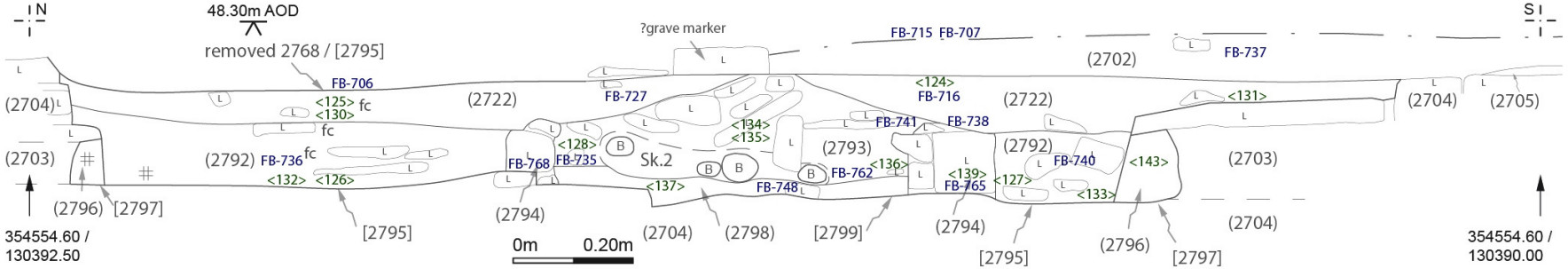


Figure 64. West-facing section of adult inhumation Sk2 grave cut [2795] with finds bag numbers (blue) & bulk samples (green).

Figure 65. Photograph of the west-facing section of grave cut [2795] with the back of the Sk2 skull *in-situ*, resting upon stone setting 2794. 1m scales.

Figure 66. Photograph of adult inhumation SK2 fully exposed *in-situ* within grave cut [2795]. Stone surround 2794 retained. Looking west. 0.50m scale.

10.0 Lakeview Quarry 2020 Archaeological Excavation Results
Later Iron Age to Romano-British Transition Site Phase 1e to Phase 2

10.1 Summary of Site Phase 1e to 2

10.1.1 Features which were either cut through or overlay LIA-RB occupation deposit #02 have been stratigraphically assigned to site Phase 1e to 2, representing the transitional period from the later Iron Age settlement to the Romano-British agricultural estate. These features underlay ploughsoil #01, indicating truncation by plough cut [#000] during the medieval to modern periods. Archaeological features excavated in 2020 associated with transition form the IA to RB periods comprised 1 x sub-circular hearth, 1 x linear feature, 1 x large midden area, 23 x pits of various functions, 25 x postholes of varying dimensions, 3 x stakeholes and an area of hardstanding that might have been associated with an unexposed structure. Certain features at the northern end of the site were assigned to this site phase on a preliminary basis due to the removal of the deposits by ploughing, destroying the stratigraphic relationships between the features and deposits.

10.2 Linear Feature 2654 / 2650 / 2688 with Posthole [2661] and Pit [2658]

10.2.1 A WNW-ESE aligned linear feature was exposed in plan around NGR 354548 / 130424. A hand excavated sondage was placed over the feature against the east-facing Area 26 section to determine its function and phasing, during which it became apparent that two distinct phases of activity had occurred, cut through occupation deposit 2602.

10.2.2 The earlier phase of the feature was represented by ditch [2654], which was a relatively broad and shallow cut, silted up by fill 2659. The centre of ditch [2654] had been removed throughout the length of the feature by recut [2650] which was deeper, with steep, well-defined sides and a flat base. Four ditch fills with various silty clay compositions were identified filling cut [2650]. Excavation revealed that both phases of the ditch terminated a few meters to the east of the A26 section, with ditch re-cut [2650] exceeding c.2m beyond the terminus of earlier ditch [2654]. A right-angled terminus was added to the later phase of the feature, extending for c.2.20m to the NNE, ending in a shallow, rounded terminus, was recorded as cut [2688].

10.2.3 Very large posthole [2661] and pit [2658] were located between c.1m to 2m NNE of both phases of ditch [2654] / [2650] (Figure 69 below). Whilst both features have been assigned to the later IA, site Phase 1e-1f, on an interim basis, the upper portion of hardstanding / compacted stone deposit 2627 in-filled the top pit [2658] contained Romano-British pottery and so by association was phased to early RB transition Phase 2.

10.2.4 Shallow ditch [2654] measured c.0.30m deep x c.0.95m wide NNE-SSW, and was cut through occupation deposit 2602 with a very broad, 'U'-shaped profile forming a flat, slightly irregular base on Lias brash 2604 (Figures 68 and 69 below). The linear feature had been silted - up by crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay 2659, which had survived removal on the north and south sides of recut [2650] as two c.0.10m wide strips, numbered as fills 2659 N & S. This earlier element of the ditch also cut through site Phase 1d Iron Age pits [2666] and [2663], to the north and south respectively.

10.2.5 Earlier ditch cut [2654] appeared to discontinue with an irregular-rounded terminus around c.2m to the east of the east-facing Area 26 section, although the centre of the terminus was cut through by recut [2650] (Figures 68 and 69 below). Medium-sized posthole [26186] was recorded at the centre of ditch's width, located at the position of the ditch [2654] terminus. The feature was exposed beneath the fills of recut [2650], cut into the underlying Lias bedrock. The posthole was well cut with a 0.36m diameter, and an even profile. At 0.12m deep it was most likely that the feature had been truncated by ditch [2650], and there was no indication of the presence of the posthole when the ditch [2650] fills were excavated. A couple of very small IA pottery sherds and fired clay lumps were collected from posthole fill 26185, which were not trustworthy evidence of the features date, which remains unresolved, hence it has been assigned to late IA site Phase 1f.

10.2.6 Finds recovered from clayey silt fill 2659 did not provide clear-cut phasing information for the earliest dating of ditch [2654]. A total of 7 pottery sherds were collected (see Figure 67 below), 6 of which were of the predominant Iron Age fabrics retrieved throughout the project. The relatively small and abraded sherds suggest that this IA material was residual and therefore of no interpretive value apart from being incorporated into the final silting-up of the ditch. A single base fragment of Romano-British pottery was also collected from the fill which has been selected for further specialist analysis; there is, however, potential for the sherd to be an intrusive element introduced into the very crumbly matrix of the fill by successive cleaning out of ditch re-cut [2650]. Additional finds collected from fill 2659 included 8 x fragments of animal bone.

10.2.7 Ditch re-cut [2650] has been interpreted as the later, more substantial re-cutting and extension of earlier ditch [2654], at .52m deep x c.0.72m NNE-SSW. The ditch continued ESE for an additional c.2m beyond cut [2654], subsequently turning NNE into right-angled terminus [2688], creating an in-turned terminus that was less deep at around 0.25m. Successive ditch fills 2628, 2651, 2652 and 2653 (from top to bottom) were identified within the east-facing section of recut [2650]. The compositions of these fills were generally brown-grey silty clays with varying compaction. Inclusions from the ditch fills included occasional to moderate quantities of Lias stones and grits, charcoal and fired clay lumps and flecks throughout. The 90° terminus [2688] was filled up by crumbly, humic clay 2620. Pottery collected from these fills did not provide discrete phasing for the re-cut. 50 x sherds (258g) of IA pottery and 21 x sherds (218g) of RB pottery were retrieved in total. Additional finds collected from the later ditch fills included 252g of animal bone and teeth, 23 fragments (140g) of fired clay, one with a stick impression, and 2 x residual flints.

cut no.	fill no	IA pottery		RB pottery	
		qty	wt	qty	wt
2654	2659	6	26.0	1	15.2
2650	2628	19	81.5	9	51.6
2650	2651	10	87.1	6	29.0
2650	2652	2	12.7	0	0.0
2650	2653	10	48.0	6	138.0
2688	2620	9	28.9	0	0.0
totals		**56**	**284.2**	**22**	**233.8**

Figure 67. Summary table of the IA and RB pottery from ditch [2654]/ [2650]/ [2688].

10.2.8 Whilst the IA sherds recovered from the re-cut [2650] ditch silts were small and abraded, suggesting residual material, the Roman-British ceramics comprised larger, better-preserved fabrics, especially within lower fill 2653, indicating that the ditch re-cut was created during the Romano-British period. Large potentially diagnostic rim sherds are present within the pottery collection from the two phases of the ditch fills which could provide a range for the recut.

10.2.9 The presence of large posthole [2661] and pit [2658], that contained RB pottery within its upper hardstanding fill 2627, could allude to some form of continued activity associated with both of the ditch phases. Large posthole [2661], up to c.0.80m in diameter and c.0.80m deep, appeared to be contemporary with the earlier phase of pit [2658], but what their function and relationship was is not clear apart from both being backfilled by an abundance Lias rubble. One possible interpretation is that the large post within posthole [2661] functioned as some form of boundary marker prior to its removal, either contemporary with, or being replaced by, the earlier phase of ditch [2654]. This could also be applied to the location of posthole [26186], immediately to the east of the earlier ditch terminus. The relatively small exposed portion of later hardstanding deposit 2627, however, continued westwards beyond the section and may have been associated with a redevelopment, or structure, constructed during the early Romano-British period relating to the re-cutting of the boundary ditch [2650] / [2688]. A similar arrangement incorporating a paved surface and associated posthole was exposed at the NW of Area 27 (see Section 10.3 below).

10.2.10 Linear features [2654] and [2650] have been collectively interpreted as silted-up drainage ditches. Level data recorded a western fall 0.30m in height of the base of ditch [2650] and in-tuned terminus [2688] from 48.82m AOD at the N-end of [2688] down to 48.50m AOD at the west end of

ditch [2650]. Ground water drainage on the site however is generally rapid due the thin, crumbly hill top soil profiles of the area where the linear features were cut, which indicates that linear features [2654] and [2650] were also designed to delineate a boundary. The ditch terminus might have formed an entrance to fields to the north of the RB agricultural buildings.

10.2.11 Study of the common alignment between later ditch [2650] / [2654] and the layout of the RB barns, Structures 1 and 2 (Chapter 11), indicate that they lay within a few degrees of each other on a WNW-ESE orientation (E17°S). An additional corroboration is also implied between RB Structures 1 and 2, stone-lined drain [2830] and earlier IA boundary ditch [24121], which are oriented NNE-SSW between N12°E and N17°E. The concording alignments of exposed linear features on the site spanning multiple archaeological phases, implies some form of continuity from the Iron Age into the Roman period. Establishing the details of such a transition are of difficult to establish with precision, and presently remain conjectural. Ditch [2650] / [2654] is discussed further within Chapter 14.

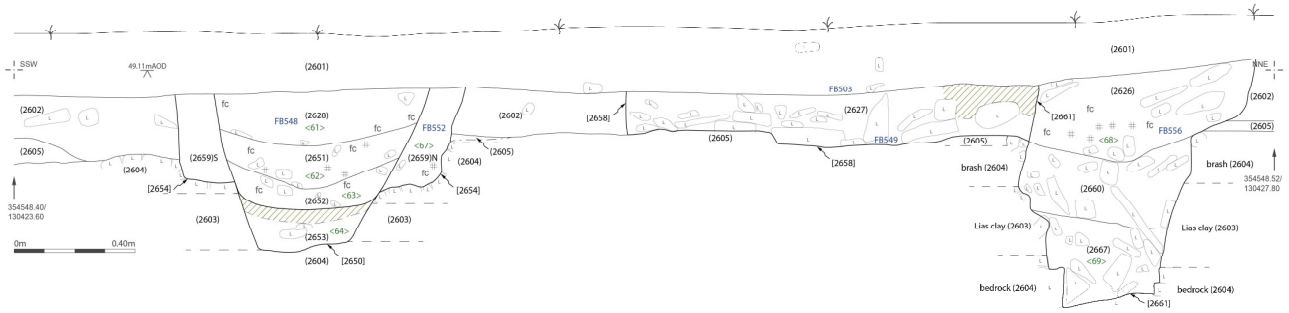


Figure 68. East-facing Area 26 section illustration with ditches [2654] & [2650], pit [2658], hardstanding 2627 and posthole [2661].

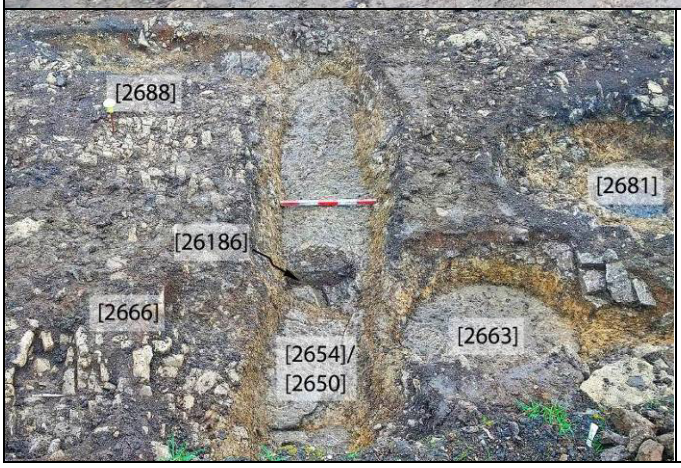


Figure 69. (above). Annotated photograph of the east-facing Area 26 section.
Displaced: ditch [2654] / [2650], pit [2663], fire pit [2666], hardstanding 2627, pit [2658] and posthole [2661].
Looking west. 1m scales

Figure 70. (left). Annotated photograph of ditch [2654]/ [2650]/ [2688] 100% excavated. Illustrates locations of: posthole [26186], pit [2663], pit [2681], fire pit [2666].
Looking east. 0.50m scale.

10.3 Hard standing 2744 & Posthole 2734

10.3.1 Sondage 5 was hand-excavated at the extreme NW corner of A27 for the purpose for exposing posthole [2734]. Significant quantities of large IA pottery sherds had been retrieved from the southern half of posthole [2734] / backfill 2733, where it was partially exposed against the northern Area 27 section, providing the rationale for further investigation. Hard standing 2744 was exposed resting within cut [2747] during this process. Both features were cut through occupation deposit 2702 and assigned to later IA site Phase 1e. There was also a high likelihood that they were directly associated with one another.

10.3.2 Posthole [2734] was designed for a post of medium-size, up to 0.23m deep x c.0.28m in diameter. A total of 197 pottery sherds (3.14 kg) within a crumbly, dark brown clay matrix were crammed into posthole [2734] when it was discontinued. Fill 2733 presented one of the best pottery assemblages from the later Iron Age period on the site. The sherds had an average size of c.16g which was over double the average weight for IA sherds in general. Pottery rims and slashed and pecked decoration were well represented in the collection, with one decorated rim / body sherd exceeding 100g. The majority of the fabrics contained limestone grit tempers. The relatively unabraded fabric, quantity and size of the pottery suggested that the material was incorporated directly into the redundant posthole. The south-facing Area 27 section recorded that posthole [2734] was truncated by cut [2747], and that the southern end of hard standing 2744 overlay the posthole. The relationships are not straightforward however, as the posthole was overlain by a clayey soil, rather than being physically sealed by the stone itself, which discontinued around the circumference of the feature.

10.3.3 Hard standing 2744 recorded a roughly paved area of large Blue Lias blocks and rubble spanning 0.80m NE-SW, with c.0.60m NW-SE exposed, continuing westwards beyond the SE-facing Sondage 5 section, presumably on a linear alignment. The paved surface was laid within a c.0.15m deep cut with steep sides and flat base. Only one IA pot sherd, one bone, and one lump of Fe slag were present within fill 2744 when it was lifted.

10.3.4 The presence of the unusually large assemblage of unabraded pottery within posthole backfill 2733 combined with hard standing 2744 leading to the north-west, hint at the presence of an associated unexposed structure north and west of Area 27 around NGR 354445 / 130410.

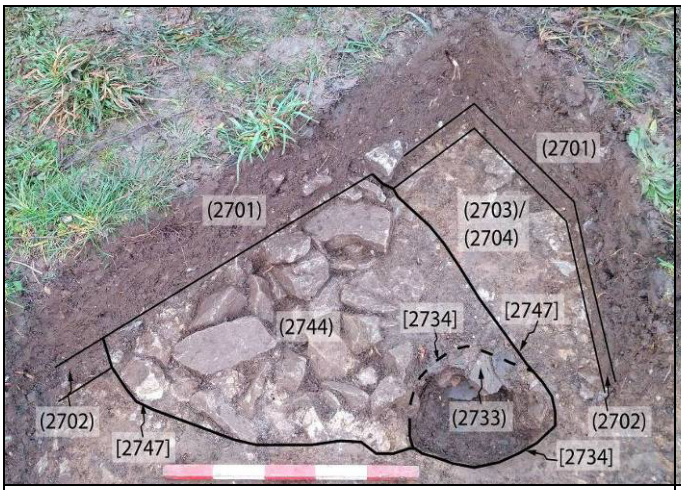


Figure 71. Annotated photograph of Sondage 5 cleaning. Exhibits the relationships between hard standing [2747] / 2744, posthole [2734] (S-half removed) and deposit 2702. Looking north. 0.50m scale.

Figure 72. Photograph of Sondage 5 completely excavated. Looking north. 0.20m scale.

Figure 73. Photograph of the IA pottery sherd assemblage from fill (2733) (unwashed).
FB658 – left & FB650 – right.
5cm scale.

10.4 Site Phase 1e & 1f Pits (Appendix 1)

10.4.1 Summary of the Phase 1e & 1f Pits A total of 23 pits have been assigned to site Phases 1e-1f. The volumes of these pits ranged from approximately 0.01m³ to 2.00m³, with a mean size around 0.22m deep x 0.80m diameter (c. 0.45m³ volume). Broad, shallow pits were typical of site Phase 1e & 1f, which was broadly comparable to the Phase 1d pits. There were of course a few exceptions to this rule, which are detailed below. Interim interpretations concluded that the group comprised 6 x cooking pits, 3 x large storage pits, 1 x fire pit, 1 x rubbish pit and 12 x pits with unidentified functions. The Phase 1e & 1f pits generally appeared to represent settlement-focussed domestic activities.

10.5 Cooking Pit 2586

10.5.1 Circular cooking pit [2586] was an apparently isolated feature located at the southern end of Area 25. The pit was broad and shallow measuring c.0.25m deep x c.0.80m in diameter. The feature was neatly constructed with steep, near vertical sides cutting through LIA-RB occupation deposit 2502, and the underlying Lias clay and brash onto a flat base formed by Lias bedrock 2504. Upper fill 2585 and lower fill 2526 were recorded within the pit.

10.5.2 Firm, mixed yellow-brown silty clay lower fill 2526, contained occasional soft charcoal and fired clay lumps. The silty clay matrix also contained a distinctive arrangement of flat Lias stones, some of which were quite large and / or burnt, which were laid across the base of the pit. No significant finds were recovered from the lower fill, aside from 3 x small fragments of animal bone.

10.5.3 Crumbly, dark brown-grey humic upper fill 2585 contained fewer quantities of stone, which were also irregular in size and form. However, 2 x large flat Lias stones had been placed vertically against the southern edge of the pit. Charcoal and fired clay were also recorded, with a noted increase in quantity in comparison to lower fill 2526. A total of 15 x IA pottery sherds (142g) were collected from the fill, including a large rim / body sherd (42g). Additionally, over 50 fragments (100g) of animal bone and teeth were also recovered, at least 20% of which were burnt, along with 50 x fired clay lumps (160g).

10.5.4 The morphology and fills of pit [2586] displayed characteristics typically associated with cooking. Whether the feature was indicative of a singular or recurring event is not clear, but the relatively unabraded fabrics and sizes of the pottery suggested that the inclusions within the pit were incorporated directly into the backfill 2585 post-event, thus implying single use. The presence of charcoal and burnt bone within the upper backfill can, to a degree, support this interpretation. Perhaps most significant was the layer of flat Lias stones at the base of the cut within lower fill 2526, and the pitched stones placed against the southern edge of the pit. These components could practicably have been utilised as both balancing and stabilising stones for a vessel, or vessels, during the cooking process.

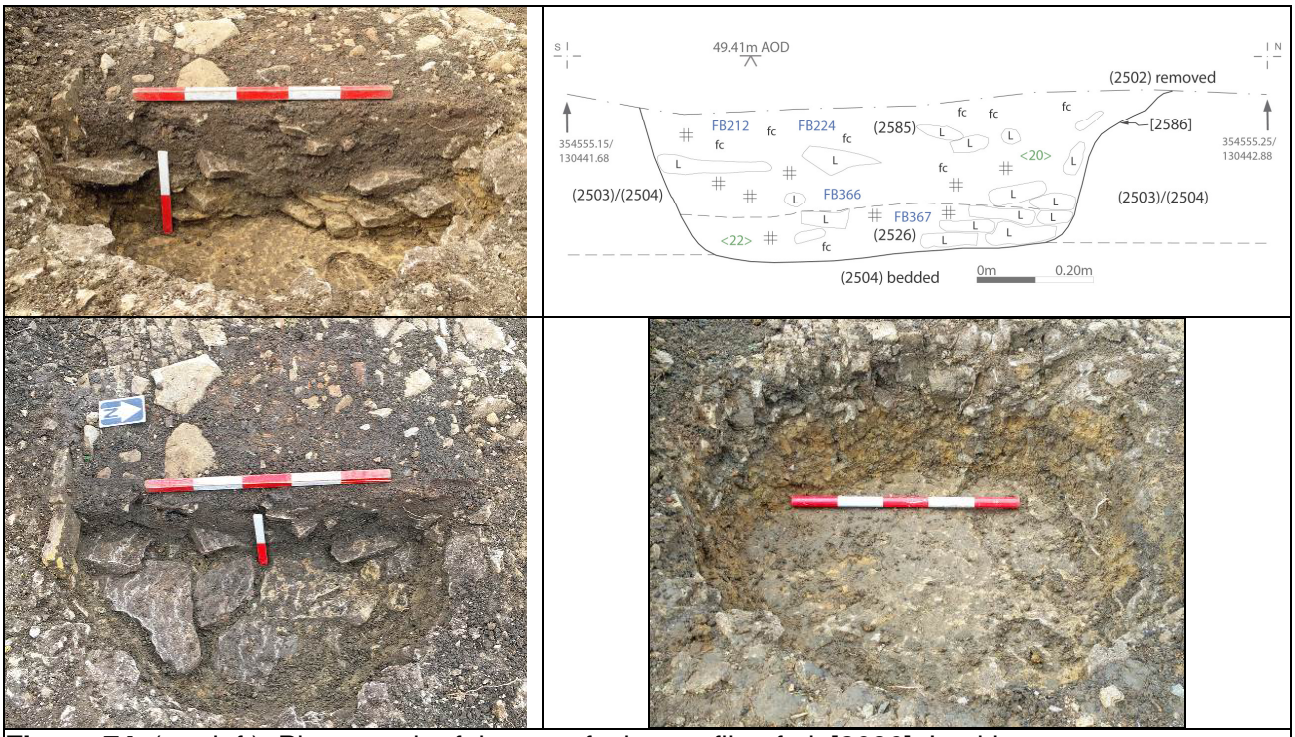


Figure 74. (top-left). Photograph of the east-facing profile of pit [2686]. Looking west. 0.20m & 0.50m scales.
Figure 75. (top-right). East-facing profile of pit [2586].
Figure 76. (centre-left). Photograph of half-sectioned pit [2586]. Flat Lias stones within lower fill 2526 exposed. Looking west. 0.20m & 0.50m scales.
Figure 77. (bottom-left). Photograph of 100% excavated pit [2586]. Looking west. 0.50m scale.

10.6 Pit 26110 and Block 8 retaining deposit 2631

10.6.1 An Iron Age pottery and fired clay rich area was identified at the centre of the southern end of Area 26 during machining and recorded as deposit 2631, where it was retained by Block 8. The block preserved 0.10m x c.1.50m N-S x c.3.00m E-W of deposit 2631 which was demonstrated to be stratigraphically identical to later IA-RB occupation deposit 2602.

10.6.2 The localised heat affected clay distinguished the appearance of deposit 2631 from the main body of deposit 2602, reinforced by the abundance of pottery, charcoal and fired clay which it contained. The pottery recovered from Block 8 deposit 2631 amounted to 249 sherds (1.73kg), it was generally of a type characterised by oxidised fabrics with frequent limestone inclusions. The deposit has been interpreted as the product of feasting in the immediate locality.

10.6.3 Cleaning over the surface of Block 8 revealed several generally unassociated, multiphase features, which were principally cut through the surface of deposit 2631. Of primary interest were site Phase 1f cooking pit [26110] and its associated posthole [26180], which are interpreted as being formative in the development of deposit 2631.

10.6.4 Three postholes made up the remaining Block 8 features. The earliest posthole was site Phase 1d posthole [26112] which was recorded both beneath deposit 2631 and truncated by pit [26110]. Site Phase 1e posthole [26104] was cut through the western edge of deposit 2631, and site Phase 1f posthole [26106] was cut through the surface of pit [26110], postdating the proposed feasting activity associated with the pit and deposit 2631.

10.6.5 Large rectangular pit [26110] measured 0.34m deep x 1m E-W x 1.90m N-S, exceeding the northern edge of Block 8. The pit cut had concave sides with a flat base onto the surface of bedrock 2604. Lower fill 26109 was primarily composed of redeposited Lias clay mixed with rubble rich dark-brown silty clays up to 0.14m thick. Fill 26109 was cut by posthole [26180] at the centre

of the northern edge of pit [26110]. The vertical sides of posthole [26180] were lined with pitched post packing stones, the top of which were flush with the surface of fill 26109. Posthole [26180] was designed for a fairly medium-sized post 0.37m deep x 0.40m diameter. The cut was backfilled with red-brown heat affected crumbly clay 26179 mixed Lias rubble, after the post was removed. The stratigraphic position of posthole [26180] dictates that it was directly associated with the feature's function.

10.6.6 When pit [26110] went out of use, backfill 26108 and upper backfill 26107 were deposited. Both backfills had similar dark brown silty clay compositions, although 26108 was particularly charcoal rich, and upper fill 26107 contained considerable quantities of Lias stone. The charcoal content within backfill 26108, and the abundance of IA pottery sherds recovered from upper backfill 26107, appeared to derive from the same event as surrounding deposit 2631, due to the shared oxidised fabric types of the IA pottery assemblages recovered from both contexts.

10.6.7 No RB pottery was recovered from any features associated with Block 8 or from deposit 2631. Artefactual inclusions were very rare within lower pit fill 26109, which yielded only three diminutive sherds of Iron Age pottery. In contrast, twenty-two large Iron Age pottery sherds (0.4kg) were recovered from posthole backfill 26179 with an average sherd weight of 18g, which in excess of twice the site average sherd weight. No finds were recovered from central backfill 26108. Upper backfill 26107 however presented an IA pottery assemblage amounting to 100 sherds (0.67kg).

10.6.8 Two special finds were recovered from the upper 0.10m of upper pit backfill 26107. An S-shaped Cu alloy clasp with a beaded end was found near to the southern edge of backfill 26107, alongside a single Cu alloy bead with a 6mm diameter, collectively bagged as SF26. Fe javelin head or ballista bolt SF27 was recovered over the central-surface area of the backfilled pit. Both special finds appear to be of RB type, and were unique to the 2020 excavations. No other weaponry has been recovered from the West Field excavations. A single Cu alloy brooch was found within Area 24 Structure 1, which marked the only other item of RB jewellery found during the archaeological excavations.

10.6.9 Pit [26110], associated posthole [26180] and deposit 2631 were stratigraphically and artefactually dated to the later phase of the IA settlement. The stratigraphic position of posthole [26180], between the central and lower fills of pit [26110], dictates that it was implicit to the function of the pit. The evidence of burning within posthole backfill 26179 lends credence to the theory that pit [26110] was used for cooking. The presence of almost 3kg of Iron Age sherds from these contexts further suggests that large pit [26110] might have served as a large communal cooking pit around where feasting occurred, affecting occupation deposit 2631, and depositing the substantial assemblage of IA pottery.

10.6.10 The presence of the Romano-British type Cu alloy clasp and ballista bolt or javelin head at the top of upper pit backfill 26107 present an artefactual anomaly, in light of the weight of IA pottery surrounding them. Possible explanations for their presence in this context could be that these artefacts date from the IA period, or that the feature was extant during the C1st BCE - C1st CE period wherein rare RB artefacts were making their way into the local material culture; or that these items had finally rested in their recovered position circumstantially from a later time period. The rarity of metal jewellery and weaponry on the site renders it most probable that these two items were associated with one-another. It appears most plausible that the metal RB artefacts were worked into the top of backfill 26107 by natural processes, and are stratigraphically associated with deposit 2602, however, their placement upon the surface of large pit [26110] does present the prospect that the feature represented an example of transition from C1st BCE - C1st CE.

10.6.11 Site Phase 1d posthole [26112] predated deposit 2631 and the other Block 8 features. The northern two-thirds of posthole [26112] had been truncated by the south end of pit [26110], however it would have been c.0.60m in diameter with a depth of c.0.46m below the surface of 2605, cut through several Lias bedrock beds. The posthole was backfilled using crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay 26111 which contained very few inclusions, yielding only two Iron Age pottery

sherds. Posthole [26112] has not been associated with either of the A26 post structures, although its well-constructed bucket-shaped cut and sizable dimensions were nearly identical to adjacent posthole [26104], and common to this part of the site.

10.6.12 Isolated posthole [26104] was cut through the western edge of deposit 2631 Block 8. The posthole retained a clear, off-vertical postpipe in section which was recorded as cut [26101], and stone post pad 26103 was observed at the base of the feature. The posthole cut was lined using large, pitched Lias packing stones, and infilled with mixed brown silty clay and redeposited Lias clay 26102. A c.0.10m deep depression at the top of the eastern side of the feature may have been formed during the insertion of the post, as the postpipe remained undisturbed. No proposed post structures have been associated with posthole [26104].

10.6.13 Small posthole [26106] was cut through the upper fill of pit [26110], making it the latest feature within Block 8. The posthole was located at the south-west corner of the pit, with a depth of 0.28m x 0.30m diameter onto the bedrock base pit [26110]. Posthole [26106] was backfilled with Lias stone in a loose dark grey-brown silty clay matrix with few inclusions. The recovery of two IA pottery sherds from the fill, and the positioning of the posthole neatly at the south-west corner of pit [26110] have stratigraphically positioned it within later IA site Phase 1f. However, the function of posthole [26106] is unclear as it clearly postdated the earlier feasting activity associated with the pit and deposit 2631.

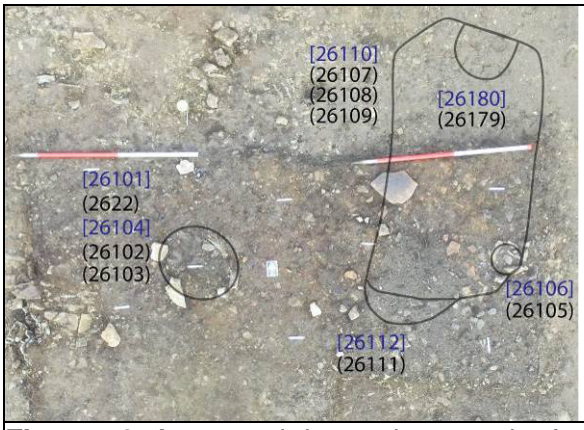


Figure 78. Annotated drone photograph of cleaning over Block 8 & its associated features. 1m scales. North to the top.

Figure 79. Drone photograph following 100% excavation of Block 8 and associated features. North to the top.

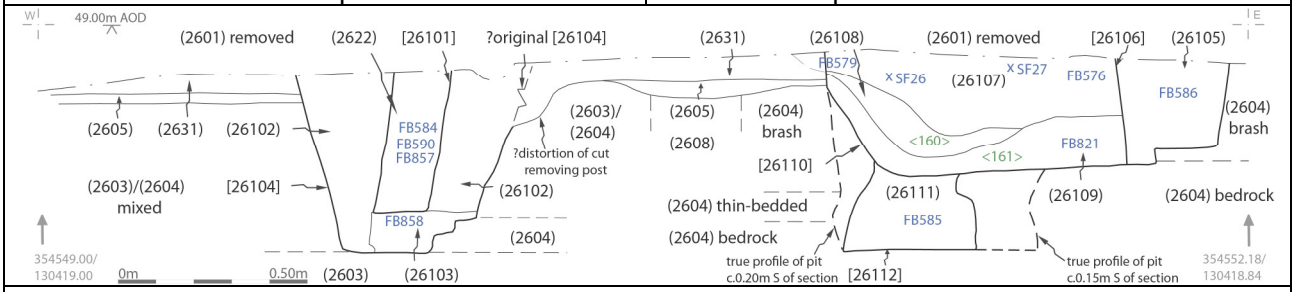


Figure 80. South-facing profile of posthole [26104] (left) with pit [26110] and postholes [26112] & [26106] (right) cut through occupation deposit 2631 within Block 8. 1:10 scale.

10.7 Storage pit 27108

10.7.1 Storage pit [27108] was exposed with the larger part of the feature in plan immediately below the north-facing Area 27 section, cut through LIA-RB occupation deposit 2702. The circular feature reached up to 0.60m deep x 1.20m diameter, with irregularly shaped sides stepping down through bedrock onto a slightly irregular-flat base, indicating that the feature had been either reused, disturbed by exposure, or both. The upper half of the feature sloped gradually and unevenly down to stepped or concave lower sides. The western side of the pit undercut the subsoil by 0.15-0.20m. The pit contained fills 2727, 27101, 27102 and 27103 (from the top – down) representative of either backfilling and/or erosion.

10.7.2 Compact, sticky, fill 27103 lined the base of the pit up to 0.14m thick. The fill was composed of dark brown and red-brown silty clays mixed with patches of re-deposited yellow-brown Lias clay. The eastern upper side of the pit was notably heat-affected where the feature had cut through subsoil 2705. Compacted, dark-red-brown fill 27102 was situated directly on the cut at this location, and also contained abundant fired clay lumps and occasional charcoal inclusions. The upper c.0.44m of the eastern half of the pit was backfilled by 2727, and by fill 27101 on the feature's west side. Charcoal and fired clay inclusions were common throughout both fills, which shared a similar dark brown-grey clay matrix. The two fills were primarily distinguishable due to the abundance of compacted large Lias rubble within backfill 2727, with vertical Lias stones abutting the east edge of fill 27101, which only contained occasional stone inclusions. The hard, vertical border between the two contexts suggested that fill 27101 was deposited first.

10.7.3 Artefactual material was fairly well-distributed throughout the pit fills. The greatest proportion of material comprised 86 x IA pottery sherds and fragments (551g), including 10 x rims, that consisted of reduced fabrics containing limestone grit temper for the greater part. Additional material included 116 x animal bone and teeth fragments (395g) and 2 x residual flint pieces (8g). Three sherds (34.4g) of Black Burnished Ware were retrieved from ploughsoil 2701 immediately over upper backfill 2727; these pieces included a large, relatively unabraded rim fragment (22g).

10.7.4 Pit [27108] has been interpreted as a storage pit as the undercutting at the western side of the pit strongly suggested that cleaning out episodes had occurred on a regular basis. Other factors to be considered in this context could have involved the storage of other perishable foodstuffs that required a periodic sterilisation of the pit environment to preclude harmful microflora, either by hand cleaning or by burning. Research has shown that leather-hard storage jars, or *pithoi*, were employed for storage of not only grain, but also dairy and meat during winter periods (Reynolds, 1974). In this particular context, it is reasonable to assume that the void backfilled by rubble 2727 represented the final event of this feature and, if storage jars had been used, then the relatively stone-free clay of fills 27101 and 27103 could represent the remains of packing material left *in situ* immediately prior to the decommissioning and backfilling of the pit. Pit [27108] was c.0.10m shallower than large site Phase 1d storage pits [2542] / [2556] and [26113], and substantially smaller with a volume of c.0.67m³, as opposed to c.1.70m³.

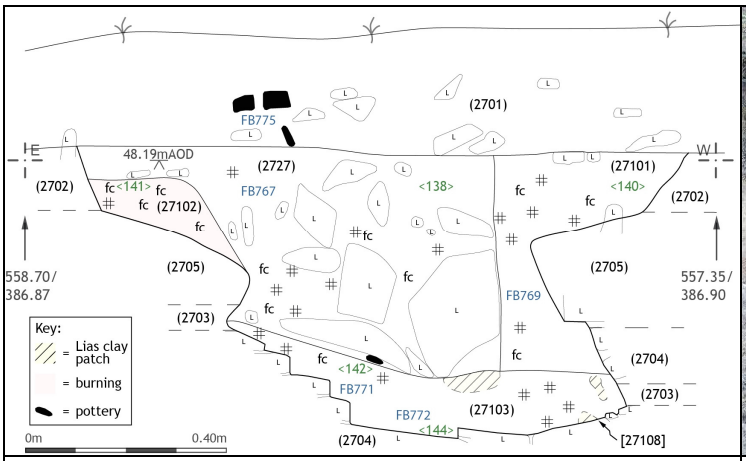


Figure 81. Illustration of the north-facing section of pit [27108].

Figure 82. Photograph of the north-facing section of pit [27108]. 0.50m scale.

11.0 Lakeview Quarry 2020 Archaeological Excavation Results
Romano-British Agricultural Estate & Post Romano-British Periods — **Site Phase 2 & Phase 3, Site Phases 4 & 5**

11.1 Summary of the Romano-British Features
11.1.1 The Romano-British 2020 excavation results focused upon the discovery of substantial stone building Structure 2, which was broadly contemporaneous with, and comparable to Structure 1 which was recorded during the 2017 excavation. A total of 17 further archaeological features have also been assigned to RB site Phases 2 to 3, which were generally located in close proximity to the stone buildings. The Romano-British features and buildings collectively cut through occupation deposit #02, and either underlay ploughsoil #01, or the later RB metalled surface deposits. The demolition of the RB buildings have been assigned to post-RB site Phases 4 and 5.

11.1.2 Large midden cut [2838] was exposed to the west of RB barn Structure 1, which contained the greatest volume of RB pottery. Three Cu alloy coins were recovered from the feature, two of which dated to the late C3rd. Stone-lined drain [2830] was located immediately west of midden [2838], and lay more-or-less equidistant between the two RB stone buildings.
A total of 11 pits of varying functions were recorded;

- broad, sub-rectangular pit [2732]
- 3 x rubbish pits [2748], [2749], [2751]
- large pit [2844] of unknown function
- 4 x caprid burial pits [2840], [2851], [2855], [2856]
- shallow, precisely cut rectangular pit [26135]
- 2 x cooking pits [2846], [2854]
- 3 x postholes [2743], [2756], [2787]

11.1.3 The above features all contained RB pottery with the exception of posthole [2787], sheep burials [2855], [2856], cooking pit [2854], stone-lined drain [2830] and small rubbish pit [2749].

cut no.	fill nos.	description	FB nos.	RB pottery	
				qty	wt
2732	2707, 2730, 2731	sub-rectangular pit	643, 644, 645, 802	16	40.8
2743	2740	posthole	655	5	26.0
2748	2739	rubbish pit	659	2	19.5
2751	2750	rubbish pit	781	1	5.3
2756	2719, 2755	posthole	668, 669	6	13.9
2838	2813	midden	324, 420, 677	79	955.6
2840	2839	sheep burial pit	452	1	10.8
2851	2821	sheep burial pit	676	2	10.7
2844	2814, 2845	large pit	392, 455, 673, 456, 674	33	356.0
2846	2816	cooking pit	678	2	11.0
26135	2607	rectangular pit	602, 603, 605, 606, 607, 852, SF-24	40	426.0
totals				**187**	**1866.6**

Figure 83. Summary table of pottery from non-structural RB features - site Phases 2 to 3.

11.2 Summary of the Earlier to Mid-Romano-British Features
11.2.1 Sub-phasing of the majority of the RB features was established on the basis of their physical relationship with either Structure 2, or later hardstanding deposits 2811 and 2812 surrounding the north and east of the building. Sound stratigraphic relationships predating RB Structure 2 were established for the pit [2851], [2855], [2856] containing Associated Bone Groups (ABG), and oval cooking pit [2854] which underlay internal Structure 2 floor 2810. Additionally, pit [2844] which contained large quantities of RB pottery, was truncated by the Structure 2 construction cut. Cooking pit [2846], large pit [2844], and pit [2840] which also contained an ABG underlay later RB metalled deposit 2811 to the north of Structure 2.

11.2.2 Midden [2838] and stone-lined drain [2830] were stratigraphically contemporaneous, and appeared to have been associated with an earlier phase of RB stone building construction. Whilst no direct relationship was observed between them during excavation, both features were truncated by the deposition of later RB metalled surface 2812 around the late C3rd - early C4th.

11.2.3 Phasing of the remaining earlier and mid-RB features was determined by a combination of their stratigraphic positioning and the identifiable RB artefacts contained within their fills. Perhaps most noteworthy were pits [2732] and [26135]. Broad, sub-rectangular pit [2732] contained RB pottery and a ferrous tool within its lower fill. Isolated rectangular pit [26135], shallow and precisely-cut, contained significant quantities of RB pottery and a single shard of light blue Roman glass.

11.3 Sheep burial pits 2840, 2851, 2855 and 2856 Site Phase 1f to Phase 2a

11.3.1 Four of the pits excavated within Area 28 were found to contain the remains of two or more partially disarticulated skeletons, identified during site work as caprid animals, pending zooarchaeological identification. Each of these animal burials have subsequently been interpreted as Associated Bone Groups (Morris, 2011, p.12), and numbered following their associated pit fill context numbers (eg. ABG 2821 from fill 2821). The features were all cut through occupation deposit 2802, and all but one of the pits were discovered beneath internal Structure 2 floor 2810. The pits shared a common form, and thus are assumed to have fulfilled comparable functions. These animal burials date stratigraphically from the same broad historical period, provisionally dated to either later Iron Age transitional site Phase 1e, or more likely earlier Romano-British site Phase 2a, as two of the features contained one or two RB sherds within the pottery assemblages, although IA sherds were prevalent. Two comparative features were also discovered beneath and abutting Structure 1, containing Associated Bone Groups 2459 and 2467 (Hollinrake, 2018, 100-130). The bone collection methodology was in line with advice received from Dr. Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) during a site visit, whereby the features were quarter sectioned for collection of the faunal remains.

11.3.2 Animal burial pits [2851] / ABG 2821, [2855] / ABG 2819 and [2856] / ABG 2820 were located immediately below the base of flagstone floor 2810. The animal bones were on display at the surface of the shallow pits, and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that the builders of Structure 2 were either aware of their presence, or even created the features in association with the building's establishment. The three pits were clustered within c.2.00m of each other, slightly to the east of the projected centre of Structure 2. Pit [2855] / fill 2819 was the best preserved of this feature group. Pit [2856] / ABG 2820 had been truncated by machine, and the south end of pit [2851] / ABG 2821 was removed by machine sondage MS1, with the feature continuing beyond the western Area 28 section.

11.3.3 The animal bone pits were all circular in plan, between c.0.10m-0.18m deep x 0.60m-0.90m in diameter, with shallow dished profiles. After the animals were deposited, the pits were backfilled using crumbly, dark brown silty clay with few inclusions with the exception of a few fired clay lumps collected from pit fills 2821 and 2820. Another prominent inclusion was a white 100 x 100 x 200mm Lias rubble block which had been placed centrally upon the base of pit [2855], stretching up to the surface of fill 2819. The ABG 2819 animal bones were subsequently arranged around the Lias stone. The entire artefactual assemblage was made up of 38 pottery sherds (135g), which were generally abraded and small, averaging just 3.6g compared to the site average of 7.0g per sherd. One average sized BBW sherd (8.4g) and one small oxidised RB sherd (1.3g) were present within pit [2851] / 2821. The remaining 36 pottery sherds were of IA type raising the prospect that pits [2855] and [2856] might have dated to the later Iron Age, as they contained eight or nine IA sherds respectively.

11.3.4 Pit [2840] containing ABG 2839 differed from the other three Area 28 animal burial pits in that it was situated c.1.50m to the north of Structure 2. The pit was half sectioned against the northern Area 28 section, establishing that at 0.22m deep x 1.24m E-W x >0.80m N-S, it was more substantial than the animal burial pits beneath Structure 2. The sides and base of pit [2840] were lined with the remains of multiple partially articulated animals, presumed to also be caprid, but potentially representing a range of species. Fewer bone fragments were present towards the centre and surface of backfill 2839, which was distinct from the pit fills beneath Structure 2 in that it was a sticky, silty, mid-grey-brown clay. One oxidised RB fineware sherd of above average size (10g) was recovered from fill 2839 alongside a collection of twelve IA pottery sherds (71g), and a residual flint pot boiler (illustrated section presented within Chapter 7, Figure 27).

Figure 84. Photograph of ABG 2819 (left) & ABDG 2820 (right) in plan. Quarter sectioned excavation method. Looking SE. 0.20m scales.

Figure 85. Photograph of half sectioned pits [2855] (left) & [2856] (right). Looking SE. 0.20m scales.

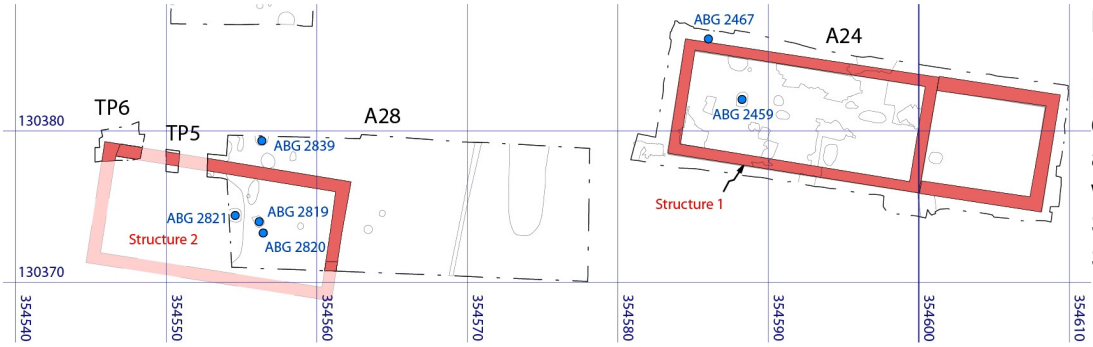


Figure 86.

Location plan of the ABGs associated with RB Structure 1 & Structure 2. 1:500 scale.

11.4 Possible Rubbish pit 2844 Site Phase 2a

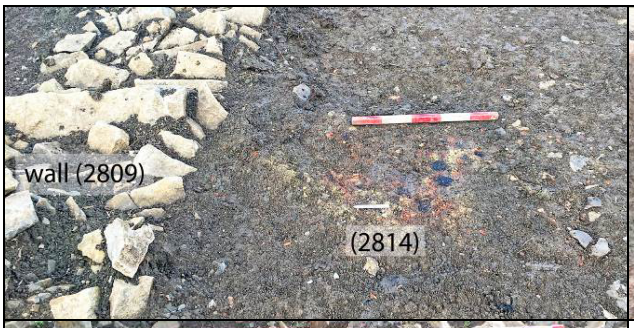
11.4.1 The contrast of the colourful fired clay-rich surface of pit [2844] against the dark brown colouration of occupation 2802, through which the feature was cut, stood out during the removal of metalled surface 2811. Hand-excavation of the feature highlighted its stratigraphic usefulness, as the uppermost southern side of the pit had been cut through by construction cut [2835] for Structure 2 northern wall foundations 2809, although their physical relationship was tight. Domestic waste was plentiful within pit backfills 2814 and 2845, potentially incorporating enough diagnostic artefactual material to contribute towards a *terminus post quem* for the construction of Structure 2, in such a manner unmatched by any other features from the 2020 excavations.

11.4.2 Oval pit [2844] was substantially sized, measuring 0.32m deep x 1.30m NW-SE x 1m NE-SW, with fairly steep sides cut through deposit 2802, a thick layer of subsoil 2805 and through a few layers of Lias bedrock 2804 onto a flat base.

11.4.3 The compositions of the pit [2844] backfills were comparable, composed of crumbly, dark brown-grey clay with varying quantities of inclusions. Lower fill 2845 occupied the greater volume of the feature at a depth of 0.20m, whereas fill 2814 only infilled the upper c.0.12m of the pit, where the sides of the cut correspondingly flared outwards, potentially indicating intensive or re-use. Both of the depositions of backfill within pit [2844] were sealed using a c.0.05m thick tip of fired clay and charcoal lumps.

11.4.4 Lower fill 2845 was more compacted than fill 2814, and contained greater quantities of Lias rubble, but fewer fired clay and charcoal lumps. A total of 23 pottery sherds (c.300g) were collected, which almost entirely dated to the RB period (19 sherds, 270g), dominated by Black Burnished Wares. Many of the BBW sherds in the assemblage were typologically identifiable, including rim fragments, some with décor. Additional finds recovered included 6 x animal bone and teeth fragments (22g), along with 1 x small residual flint flake.

11.4.5 Large fired clay and charcoal lumps were common inclusions throughout upper backfill 2814. The fill also contained a further 14 RB pottery sherds (85g), again dominated by Black Burnished Wares, including 2 x rim fragments, plus 7 x IA sherds (112g) of fabrics most commonly collected throughout the project. Additional finds recovered included 12 x bone fragments (37g), one of which was inscribed with parallel grooves and a small residual flint flake.



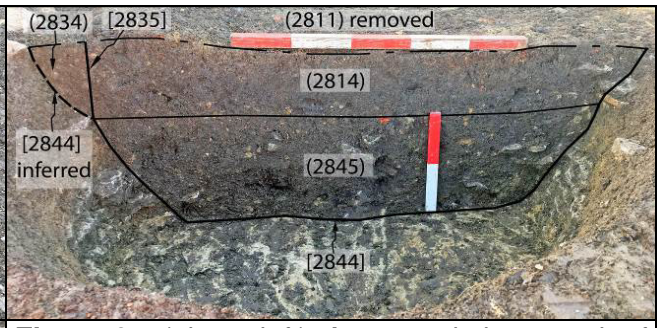


Figure 87. (above left). Annotated photograph of cleaning over upper fill 2814 within pit [2844], crossed by Structure 2 wall foundations 2809. Looking west. 0.50m scale.

Figure 88. (above right). Annotated photograph of the east-facing profile of pit [2844]. 0.20m & 0.50m scales.

Figure 89. (left). Photograph of pit [2844] – 100% excavated. Looking SSW towards masonry 2809. 1m scale.

11.4.6 Although the function of pit [2844] was not entirely clear, its value lies in its stratigraphic relationship with the Structure 2 construction cut, combined with the collection of RB pottery contained within it. Other features stratigraphically associated with pit [2844] include animal burial pits [2840], [2851], [2855] and [2856] beneath the Structure 2 floor. It is conceivable that large, shallow, oval pit [2854] was a directly associated feature. it lay around 1m SSW of pit [2844], abutting the south side of external wall foundations 2809, and was interpreted as a subterranean oven, with heat affected sides, and abundant with soft charcoal and fired clay inclusions. The quantity of heat affected materials within pits [2844] and [2854] made them distinct from other archaeological features in the area around Structure 2. It is not only plausible that pit [2844] was designed to collect waste generated from subterranean oven [2854], but that they were both involved with the construction of Structure 2, as they both tightly abutted the building foundations.

11.5 Possible Cremation Pit [26135] Site Phase 2

11.5.1 The surface of rectangular pit [26135] presented an area of dark brown-grey silty clay surrounded by a c.5-10cm wide, straight-sided 'halo' of yellow Lias clay. The feature was identified and set aside during machining at the surface of LIA-RB occupation deposit 2602, a few centimetres above the base of excavation, leaving the feature untruncated.

11.5.2 Several aspects of rectangular pit [26135] stood out as unusual when compared with other features on the site. The pits alignment had a close adherence to an east-west orientation, which was otherwise rarely encountered on the site. The feature was symmetrical in plan with straight sides and rounded corners, and in section, where it had short-rounded sides onto a flat base just below the surface of subsoil 2605. Pit [26135] measured 0.15m deep x 0.90m wide x 2.70m E-W. Rectangular pit [26135] was unusually shallow for its size prompting further investigation through underlying subsoil 2605, which was unusually thick in this part of the site, onto the surface of bedrock 2604. Hence the base of the feature was over excavated.

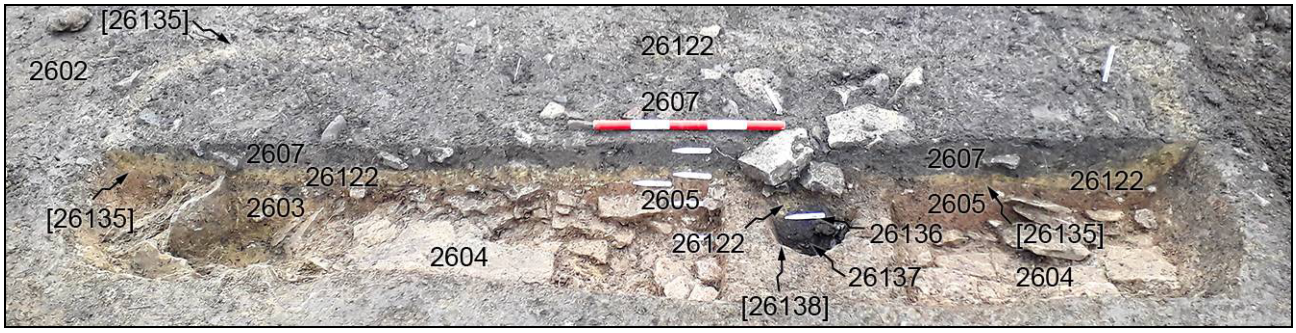


Figure 90. Annotated photograph of the south-facing profile of rectangular pit [26135] cutting through posthole [26138]. 0.50m scale. Looking north.

11.5.3 An additional atypical characteristic of the pit was the 0.07m thick lining of yellow Lias clay 26122 deposited evenly across the entire feature, creating the aforementioned 'halo' effect around its perimeter when viewed from the surface. Crumbly, dark brown-grey silty clay 2607 subsequently filled up the rest of the feature which contained a few isolated Lias stones.

11.5.4 Two nearby features were cut by pit [26135]. Posthole [26138] lay truncated below the centre of pit [25135], making it at appear potentially associated. Excavation made their disassociation clear because the half sectioned features showed that backfilled posthole [26138] underlay Lias clay lining 26122. Posthole [26138] was accordingly assigned to site Phase 1e. The east end of pit [26135] had also cut through the upper west side of Phase 1d slag pit [26165].

11.5.5 Redeposited clay 26122 was stone free, with no inclusions besides 5 small bones and a couple of fired clay fragments (10g) were recovered. Fill 2607 on the other hand contained the second largest collection of RB pottery from the 2020 features amounting to 40 pottery sherds (426g), alongside a further 11 residual IA sherds. There were also 11 small bone fragments (34g) recovered, and a shard of RB blue-tinted glass (6g - SF28), an uncommon artefactual material on the site. The RB pottery collection from this feature also contained a notably high proportion of sherds with cross-hatch / lattice decoration (c.25%). These decorated sherds were of various fabrics, and the assemblage appears to represent the remains of several high-quality vessels.

11.5.6 Of particular artefactual interest were three large pottery sherds, which were immediately collected from the surface of upper fill 2607 as SF24 (262g) during hand cleaning. The SF24 vessel was sat upright on the surface of the feature, and had consequently been truncated by ploughing, leaving the remains of a RB fineware pedestal base *in-situ*, retaining its contents, which had an ashy appearance. The vessel itself had a hard, oxidised fabric with a shiny outer surface, and was bagged separately with its fill due to the likelihood that it was the remains of a cremation urn.

11.6.6 Pit [26135] was incomparable to any other features encountered during the archaeological excavations. The prospect that the feature was a Romano-British cremation pit was suspected during fieldwork, and remains the preferred interpretation. This view is based upon the presence of possible cremation urn SF24 and the large quantity of high-status RB pottery and glass, combined with the strong east-west orientation of the pit, suggesting a Christian ritual feature. Furthermore, a cremation was also conjectured during the AC Archaeology 2009 evaluation sited only c.35m to the north-west of pit [26135], at the south end of Trench 4, adjacent to a burial (Chapter 3.4 – Figure 8). Romano-British burials and cremations are discussed in more detail in Chapter 14.4.

Figure 91.

Drone photograph of cleaning over rectangular pit [26135]. Topsoil 2601 removed by hand over the surface of redeposited Lias clay pit lining 26122 and upper interior fill 2607.

1m scale.

North to the right.

Figure 92.
Drone photograph of rectangular pit [26135] with the south side fully excavated, & upper fill 2607 removed from the north side of the feature; and posthole [26138].

Southern-half of pit [26135] was overcut to the surface of bedrock 2604 except for a retained area of subsoil 2605 around posthole [26138].

0.50m scale.
North to the right.

11.7 Stone Lined Drain 2830 & Destruction 2837 Site Phase 2 to Phase 3

11.7.1 Stone lined drain [2830] crossed through the centre of Area 28 on a NNE-SSW orientation (N12°E), parallel with Structures 1 and 2. The base of the drain dropped to the south by 0.28m over the 9m distance between the north and south edges of the excavation area (from 47.65m – 47.37mAOD). Cut [2830] had a steep, straight-sided, bucket-shaped profile with a flat base. Cut [2830] was c.0.30m deep x from 0.18m wide at the base of the cut, up to 0.38m wide at the top. Drain [2830] was hand-excavated in conjunction with Block 2 (retaining metalled surface 2812 at the centre of A28), along with Block 3 and Sondage 6 which excavated metalled surface 2811 and the lower stratified deposits against the south-facing section of A28 (Figure 95). These excavations demonstrated that drain [2830] was cut through occupation deposit 2802. Analysis of the condition of the drain fabric concluded that the feature was deliberately dismantled by destruction cut [2837], and partially backfilled by clay and rubble 2836 upon its discontinuation. Although drain [2830] demarcated the division between metalled surfaces 2811 and 2812, excavation demonstrated that even though the composition of these deposits was not identical, they were contiguous, and sealed the dismantled drain.

11.7.2 The remains of the drain were presented with one course of roughly squared Blue Lias slabs 2807 (av. 15mm x 250mm x 400mm) lining the western edge of the cut across its full length. A further layer of slabs 2807, of the same type and dimensions, yet with damaged upper edges, were laid at an angle onto the surface of the lower flush slabs. Original drain silts 2829 were exposed, where they were compressed within the c.0.15m high x 0.15m high triangular void between the two courses of Lias slabs. Minimal finds were recovered from drain silts 2829, with no diagnostic material present. The original form of the drain was easily reconstructed on site by shifting the upper course of Lias slabs onto the eastern side of the cut, demonstrating that both sides of the feature were stone-lined, with a clay base.

11.7.3 It was not possible to clarify whether or not drain [2830] was culverted due to the demolition of the top of the feature by cut [2837], which forced the tops of the eastern side stones to the west, and backfilling the remaining void with rubble-rich clay 2836, to create firm ground. However, it was notable that usual quantities of the rubble within backfill 2836 were also roughly squared Blue Lias slabs, with adequate proportions to have capped the drain, rendering the conclusion that the feature was most likely culverted with Lias slabs. Artefacts from backfill 2836 were extremely scarce, with only one fragment of bone and a small, residual flint flake retrieved.

11.7.4 Drain [2830] was constructed as a stone-lined covered culvert to facilitate the egress of water downslope from the north. The construction of such a feature would only be necessary in association with a stone-built Romano-British building, which remains as yet unexposed and unidentified. There is ample undisturbed ground due north in the area around NGR 354570 / 130380, and it is not likely that if such a structure had been extant that it would have been removed by quarrying. The drain was stratigraphically contemporary with midden [2838] which was also sealed by metalled surface 2812, and contained a late C3rd coin, discussed below.

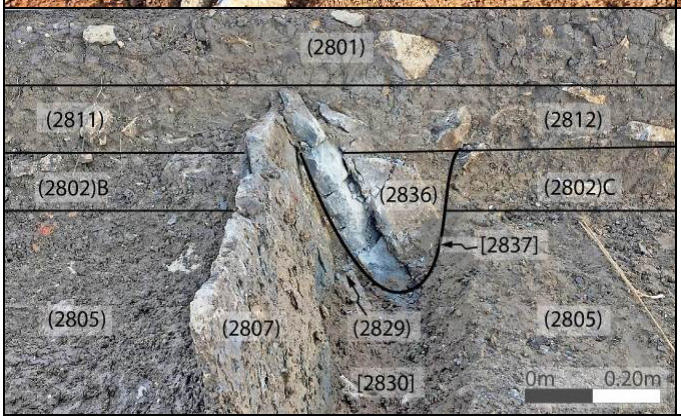


Figure 93. (above left). Photograph of cleaned stone lined drain [2830] within Block #2. Looking north. 0.50m scale.

Figure 94. (above). Photograph of reconstructed stone lined drain within Block #2. Looking north. 0.50m scale.

Figure 95. (left). Annotated photograph of the S-facing section of drain [2830]. Illustrates destruction [2837] with backfill 2836. 0.20m scale.

11.8 Midden 2838 Phase 2 to Phase 3

11.8.1 The southern end of large oval shaped midden cut [2838] was exposed extending for c.6.00m from the south-facing section of Area 28 on a NNE-SSW alignment. The western edge of the feature was sited c.2m to the east of stone-lined drain [2830], which shared the same stratigraphic position, cut through deposit 2802, and truncated down to 0.15m prior to being sealed by the laying down of metalled surface 2812. The cut was filled by very dark grey-green-brown, friable, cessy clay 2813, which stretched up to c.2.50m wide. The feature had not extended up to its maximum width, indicating that the long axis of cut [2838] could have conceivably reached fifteen meters in length, with the majority of the feature therefore preserved to the north of Area 28 (see Figure 96 below and Chapter 7, Figure 27).

11.8.2 Apparently representing an accumulation of both domestic and animal waste, fill 2813 was homogonous containing only occasional or rare inclusions of charcoal, fired clay and small Lias stones and grits. Although fill 2813 had was shallow in depth it was rich in artefactual material. The pottery assemblage collected nearly 1kg of Romano-British wares, which were characterised by above average sized sherds, occasionally very large pot sherds, including diagnostic rims and decoration sherds. Half of the 79 x RB pottery sherds collected from the context were Black Burnished Wares, some of which had cross hatched decoration. Various oxidised & reduced fabric

dominated the remainder of the collection, with colour coats, greyware and a couple of fineware sherds also present. Other material collected comprised c.200g of animal bone, 10 Fe nails, and 3 x residual flint items, including a retouched flake.

11.8.3 Three RB Cu alloy coins were recovered and assigned special find numbers SF-22, SF-23 and SF-32. A diameter between 17-19mm was shared with corroded coins SF-22, SF-23, although the bust & obverse was partially visible on SF-22, and potentially identifiable by expert analysis. Of the three coins, SF-32 was the least corroded and has been provisionally classified as a radiate of the usurper Emperor Carausius, 22m in diameter and dating to 286-293 CE (PAS, 2021, Record ID:LVPL-839EDB). The categorization of the SF-32 coin as late C3rd was complimented by metal detecting find MD-5, which was a coin found at the base of ploughsoil 2801 at 47.98mAOD, just over a meter north of Area 28, on the projected western edge of the northern continuation of cut [2838], and was likely to have been originally contained within it. The coin was preserved in excellent condition, and had therefore not been subject to significant abrasive movement. The MD-5 coin was also 22mm diameter and distinguishable as a Bi Radiate dating to Emperor Allectus who assassinated and succeeded Emperor Carausius for a brief period between 293-296 CE during the period known as the Carausian Revolt (PAS, 2021, Record ID:SUR-1F62C7).

11.8.4 The provisional dating of the SF-32 and MD-5 coins to the late C3rd can provisionally be applied to both midden [2838], by proxy drain [2830]. It should be considered that another function for drain [2830] might be associated with aiding drainage for the middening run-off that inevitably would have accumulated in this area. The deposition of the stratigraphically later metalled surface 2811 / 2812 is therefore provided with a late C3rd to early C4th *terminus post quem*.

Figure 96. Photograph of midden [2838] within the south-facing Area 28 section. 1m scale.

11.9 Pit 2732 Phase 2 to Phase 3

11.9.1 Sub-rectangular pit [2732] was an isolated RB feature sited approximately 25m north of Structure 2, in an area where features from this period were very scarce. The pit was broad and shallow at 0.32m deep x c.1.20m wide x c.1.60m ESE-WNW, which was cut from the surface of deposit 2702 with neat, near vertical sides and a flat base formed by well-bedded Lias bedrock. The pit contained three fills. Lower, main clayey fill 2731 was covered by Lias rubble slab layer 2730, which was in turn sealed by redeposited Lias clay 2707, which showed up as a bright yellow circle when the feature was exposed.

11.9.2 The basal backfill of the pit was composed of loose, dark brown-grey silty clay derived from deposit 2702, mixed with waste and residual material such as charcoal and fired clay lumps which were common inclusions throughout. A total of 15 RB pottery sherds (42g) were collected; principally Black Burnished Ware fabrics, including 1 x large sherd (12g) and 1 x small rim / body sherd (2.4g). Additional finds recovered consisted of 75 x bone and teeth fragments (77g) 1 x residual flint bladelet plus 1 x small Fe fragment (2.4g). Corroded ferrous implement SF-31 was also recovered from the base of the pit, presently identified as either a sickle blade or short-handled knife, broken in half (c.4mm thick, varying in width from 13mm to 40mm x c.150mm long).

11.9.3 Concerted efforts were made to mitigate settling ground during the backfilling of pit [2732]. The main silty clay backfill initially infilled the open pit in its entirety. The central mass of lower backfill 2731 was subsequently compressed down to around 0.20m during the deposition of the upper fills. This was evident as the fill reached up to the top of the perimeter of the pit. The compressed surface of backfill 2731 was subsequently sealed across the pit by a compacted layer

of Lias rubble slabs, laid either flush or overlapping one-another. Larger blocks were generally preferred for layer 2730, with average dimensions of 40mm x 380mm x 380mm. No finds were recovered from the context during its removal.

11.9.4 Yellow Lias clay was sourced to form upper backfill 2707, which was mixed with small quantities of dark brown silty clay (c.30%), prior to compacting it over and between rubble 2730. Upper backfill 2707 was virtually stone free, with some occasional small fired clay lumps. 18 bone fragments (25g) and 4 RB pottery rim fragments (7.8g) were recovered from the base of the fill.

11.9.5 It is assumed that pit [2732] was originally created for the storage of grain then reused as a refuse pit, prior to being purposefully backfilled in such a way as to create a solid ground surface after use. There is no doubt that the backfilling of the feature occurred during the Roman-British period, although it shall remain unknowable which century of the period this occurred until the pottery assemblage is analysed. Notional dating for the feature would be useful as there were no obvious counterparts to pit [2732], which stood alone both physically and typologically. The only other feature with similar characteristics was possible cremation pit [26135], which was more precisely cut, and larger, yet more shallow than pit [2732]. A notable shared factor by both features was the inclusion of a well-compacted layer of redeposited Lias clay.

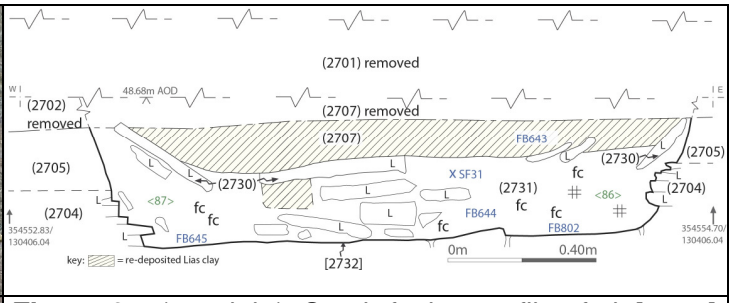


Figure 97. (top-right). South-facing profile of pit [2732] @ 1:20 scale.

Figure 98. (top-left). Photograph of the south-facing profile of pit [2732]. Rubble layer 2730 exposed. Looking north. 0.50m scale.

Figure 99. (centre-top-left). Photograph of south-facing profile of pit [2732] – half-sectioned. Looking north. 0.50m scale.

Figure 100. (centre-bottom-left). Photograph of pit [2732] – 100% excavated. Looking north. 2 x 0.50m scales.

Figure 101. (bottom-left). Photograph of SF-31 (uncleaned). 50mm scale.

11.10 Romano-British Stone Building Structure 2 Phase 2 to Phase 3

11.10.1 The north-eastern portion of a Romano-British Stone Building was exposed at the western end of Area 28. The adjoining north and eastern wall foundations of the building were initially exposed within Area 28 along with the remaining sections of the Lias flagstone floor which was in a ruinous condition. Hand-dug Sondage 1 was subsequently excavated into the western Area 28 section above the northern wall to further investigate the building fabric, and uncover its western edge, prior to the machine excavation of test pits TP5 and TP6 along the same line to the west. The remains of the north-west corner of the building were exposed within test pit TP6.

11.10.2 The main area of Structure 2 exposed by the 2020 excavation amounted to approximately 6m N-S x 7m E-W (42m²), exposing the remains of three adjoining walls, and a rough Lias flagstone floor. The building was established above later IA to RB occupation deposit 2802, partially truncated by ploughing [28000] and sealed beneath ploughsoil 2801.

11.10.3 The constituent parts of Structure 2 were recorded as,
• eastern wall trench [2828], primary 2827 & wall foundations 2806
• northern and western wall trench [2835], primary 2834 & northern wall foundations 2809 and
• ruined western wall foundations 2848
• the remains of Lias flagstone floor 2810 filled RB turf and topsoil strip [2859]
• robbing-out of masonry from the eastern wall was recorded by cut [2826] / backfill 2825 and
• the eventual dismantling of the structure has been collectively described by cut [2847], which theoretically predates the advent of further truncation by cut [28000].

11.10.4 Although the remains of Romano-British stone Structures 1 and 2 were not identical, they shared many attributes. The long axis of both of the rectangular stone buildings was laid–out on the predominant IA to RB NNE-SSW (N9°E) site orientation. The north-edge of Structure 2 was set-out 5.32m to the south of the north-edge of Structure 1. The exterior of the eastern wall of Structure 2 was sited 20.72m to the west of Structure 1. Structure 1 was exposed in its entirety during the 2017 archaeological dig, wherein it was revealed that it was composed of two distinct sections. A summary of Structure 1 is necessary prior to the description of Structure 2 (Hollinrake, 2018). The Structure 1 excavation area (Area 24) was backfilled prior to the 2020 site work.

11.10.5 The main, western part of Structure 1 was allocated feature number F24101. An extension which abutted the eastern wall of building F24101 was assigned the feature number F24102. The building F24101 remains consisted of a regular, rectangular building with walls up to 0.55m high (including foundations) x 7.75m wide x around 16.90m in length WNW-ESE (26 x 57 Roman feet – *pes* (convert-me.com (2021). The precise length of Structure 1 had to be estimated as the western wall had partially subsided into underlying IA linear feature [24121], buckling the adjoining the walls, which inevitably would have eventually destabilised the structure. The walls of the building were well constructed using faced Blue Lias stones surrounding a rubble core, bonded with yellow sandy lime mortar. The northern, eastern, and southern walls had survived in a good state of preservation, with up to three courses of masonry surviving towards the eastern end of the northern wall, resting upon between one to four courses of Lias rubble herring bone foundations. A demolished c.4m wide doorway was identified at the centre of the southern wall. Parts of the original internal Lias flagstone floor was extant, laid upon a sandy lime mortar bed, and resting above a limestone curb formed by the lowest off-set course of internally faced stone wall masonry. Later, reconstructed floors of inferior construction were also present within the building's interior. Building F24101 originally had a roof covered by Lias roof tiles, incorporating Pennant sandstone elements. Several pits were exposed where the floor had been removed from the centre of the building in antiquity. Two discreet Lias stone plinths were recorded which had been intensely burnt which was surrounded by burnt deposits. The stone plinths might have been associated with the remains of a lime-filled *mortarium* which was set into the underlying clay next to the southern doorway. There was no evidence for partition walls within building F24101, which has been interpreted as an agricultural barn.

11.10.6 The remains of sub-square extension F24102 encompassed a 7.75m NNE-SSW x 8.20m ESE-WNW area (26 x 27½ Roman feet (convert-me.com (2021). The walls had been reduced down to their two courses of pitched foundations, measuring up to 0.28m high, with the exception of one preserved course of the above ground faced outer stone and rubble core of the western half of the south wall. The interior of extension F24102 contained fewer artefacts and features than building F24101, with only one pit exposed, which appeared to have been associated with the building's construction. Extension F24102 also presented scant evidence for either an internal bedded floor, or tiled roof. Localised unstructured spreads of Lias roof tiles extant along the west side of building F24102 were considered more likely to have been *ad hoc* floors reusing fallen roof tiles from adjacent building F24101 after its partial collapse. Building extension F24102 was consequently interpreted as an unroofed, walled courtyard, although it the possibility that it was a roofed extension cannot be ruled out. It was not observable from the archaeological evidence whether there was access between structures F24101 and F24102.

11.10.7 The dimensions of Structure 2 conformed favourably to Structure 1 building F24101, and the fabric and design of the Structure 2 external walls were comparable to Structure 1 extension F24102. Internal walls were absent within the interiors of both of the stone structures, which have been interpreted as broadly contemporaneous agricultural buildings, serving a Romano-British agricultural estate, associated with the various remains of outlying walls in the immediate vicinity, all of which surrounded an apparent courtyard area.

11.10.8 The long WNW-ESE axis of Structure 2 measured 16.58m which converts to 56 Roman feet – *pes* (convert-me.com (2021). The lengths of Structure 2 and Structure 1 building F24101 deviated by only a few centimetres. It is logical therefore that Structure 1 building F24101 would have originally measured an equal length prior its partial subsidence and consequent distortion. The southern side of Structure 2 remained unexposed by the Area 28 excavation. The northern end of eastern wall 2806 was exposed up to a length of c.6.00m NNE-SSW, and western wall 2848 was exposed up to 1.20m in length with Test Pit TP6. It is assumed that the widths of Structures 1 and 2 had concording widths around 7.70m which converts to 26 Roman feet. An equal substantial interior open floor space amounting to approximately 127.7m², which converts to c.1,456 Roman square feet – *pes quadratus* - would therefore have been individually enclosed by each building. On this basis it has been calculated that approximately 40% of Structure 2 was exposed at the south-west corner of excavation Area 28.

11.10.9 The RB groundworks methods utilised for Structure 2 were comparable to Structure 1 extension F24102. These constructions were generally of inferior quality to Structure 1 building F24101 which was constructed within vertically sided, open area construction cut [2416] / [24131], which removed the stratified deposits and the underlying Lias clays and bedrock layers down to a depth of c.0.20m from the original ground level, creating a flat, below ground rectangular footprint with a flat base, for the construction of the building's footings and floors. Both Structure 2 and Structure 1 extension F24102 in contrast used a turf and topsoil strip which graded the ground down by only c.0.10m, prior to the insertion of footing trenches. Within the interior of Structure 2, construction cut [2859] truncated the surface of Phase 1e-2a deposit 2802, which was subsequently used to bed flagstone floor 2810. It was that Structure 2 was established upon a ground surface which gradually graded down to the east by a ratio of c.1:160, and to the south a c.1:40 ratio, whereas Structure 1 was erected upon more or less even level ground.

11.10.10 The external Structure 2 walls were constructed within a continuous rectangular footing trench, with c.0.80m wide vertical sides and a flat base onto a bedded layer of Lias bedrock or clay. Eastern footing trench [2828] became progressively deeper from 0.17m deep at its north end, down to 0.30m deep at its southern exposed extent, to mitigate the sloped ground upon which it was sited, where the stratified clays accumulated greater depths. The exposed Structure 2 wall foundations mostly remained *in-situ*. Two sections were removed by hand (N-facing Area 28 section & E-facing Sondage 1 section) to expose the cut and investigate the masonry. The base of the footing trenches was also partially exposed with test pit TP6 where the western end of northern wall 2809 and southern return wall 2848 had been disturbed in antiquity.

11.10.11 A thin layer of very soft, dark brown slightly humic clay with charcoal and fired clay inclusions, more or less continually lined the base of the Structure 2 footing trenches, beneath the masonry, which was recorded as primary fills 2827 / 2834. The Structure 2 wall foundations were constructed with three herring-bone courses of rough Blue Lias rubble blocks (av.30 x 30 x 180mm - up to 150 x 200 x 500mm), grading up to four courses over the lower ground towards the southern end of the building. The pitching of the herring bone courses alternated directions at various intervals throughout the exposed masonry. The masonry was bonded with gritty, dark brown clay in c.30mm thick joints. A further course of masonry that stood at ground level during the RB period was preserved a few meters either side of the right-angled intersection between the north and eastern walls. This upper course was more uniform, with a more even selection of c.150 x 300 x 300mm stones, evenly pitched up clockwise. This result confirmed that the Structure 1 construction method using faced Blue Lias stones surrounding a rubble core, bonded with sandy yellow lime mortar was unlikely to have been utilised for Structure 2, where no traces of either lime mortar or lime wall plaster were evident.

11.10.12 Internal Structure 2 floor 2810 was created using one thin course of unmortared, irregularly shaped Blue Lias flagstones - av.40 x 150 x 150mm - up to 60 x 250 x 250mm laid flush in a makeshift manner. The floor slabs had been removed at the north-west and eastern exposed ends of the structure in antiquity, but were preserved to the centre and north. Compared to the preserved sections of Structure 1 internal flooring, the flagstones used for floor 2810 were generally smaller and variable in size, with an increased use of smaller stones <100mm to fill in the untessellated gaps. The finish of the 2810 flagstones was also inferior to the Structure 1 floor which exhibited regular vertical edges and flat surfaces.

11.10.13 Metalled surface 2811 surrounded the exterior of Structure 2. The deposit butted up tightly to the external face of the building's walls, and was laid upon the surface of deposit 2802B. Deposit 2811 was assigned to record the mettaled surface to the west of stone drain [2830], and deposit 2812 contexted the metalled surface to the east of the drain, at the same stratigraphic position, continuing eastwards towards Structure 1. A distinction between the two contexts was also designated to the record the disparity between their respective compositions. Both deposits 2811 and 2812 measured a depth of c.0.10m, and consisted of compacted, Lias stone chips and rubble in a grey-brown slightly humic clay matrix. The difference between the two deposits rested in the size of the Lias rubble used, wherein deposit 2811 contained a greater volume of smaller stone chips <100mm (c.50%), whereas the deposit 2812 composition was dominated by larger Lias rubble blocks <300mm (50%). Excavation of demolished stone drain [2830] and investigation of the north and south–facing Area 28 sections demonstrated that metalled surface 2811 and 2812 were contiguous deposits, sealing both the demolished drain, and truncated midden 2813 / [2838]. Two late C3rd RB coins were found in association with deposit 2812, indicating that the metalled surface layer was laid down in the late C3rd-early C4th. It was not possible to stratigraphically clarify how much later metalled surface 2811 / 2812 was laid down after the erection of Structure 2.

11.11 Structure 2 Finds

11.11.1 Excavation of primary fill 2827 / 2834 below the wall foundations only produced 2 small IA and 2 small RB pottery sherds, which are not likely to be diagnostic, and a couple of small pieces of bone. A greater quantity of artefactual material was recovered from the wall foundation 2806 / 2809 clay bonding during their hand removal. Finds from the removal of floor 2810 also contribute to the collection of finds associated with the construction of Structure 2. Residual IA pottery sherds dominated the assemblage from these contexts, but several RB pottery sherds were also present, including a few rim sherds which could contribute towards a broad *terminus post quem* for the building's construction. None of the bone collected from these contexts were of sufficient volume to be to obtain radiocarbon dates, and there is no way of determining their residuality.

11.11.2 Post Romano-British Periods Site Phases 4 & 5

11.11.3 Evidence for activity on the site during Phases 4 and 5, representing the Sub-Roman and early medieval historical periods after the Roman occupation of Britain, focuses upon the

deliberate dismantling of stone Structures 1 and 2, as no other features encountered on the site have been proven to date to the C5th or later, although a few potential Phase 4 and/or 5 features have been suggested within the Structure 1 interior (Hollinrake, 2018).

11.11.4 Two context numbers have been assigned to describe the demolition of Structure 2. The majority of the removal of the Structure 2 building fabric was generically recorded by demolition cut [2847], and cut [2826] was also assigned to record the robbing-out of the upper 0.21m of the southern c.2.00m of eastern wall foundation 2806, down to its lowest course where the largest stones appear to have been left if they were too hard to shift. The vertical sides of wall robber trench [2826] evidenced that it represented a well orchestrated, purposeful act, which had not distorted foundation cut [2828]. No archaeological finds were present within blocky, gritty, buff-grey-brown clay backfill 2825.

11.11.5 The majority of the exposed section of flagstone floor had been either removed or severely disturbed by demolition cut [2847], leaving the inferior small stones behind. The above ground walls had been almost completely taken down to the foundations, in what appeared to be a systematic manor. Disturbance was evident at the north-west corner of the building within Test Pit TP6, where the floor and the southern return of the wall foundations were almost completely obliterated. It is likely that the north-west corner of Structure 2 suffered further disturbance due to ploughing, as this corner of Structure 2 lay upslope from the rest of the building, and the surface of the foundations lay only 0.13m below the modern-day ground surface. The metalled surface deposit also appears to have been removed by ploughing in this area.

11.11.6 The condition of the two dismantled Romano-British agricultural buildings presented a diverse set of ruins. Structure 1 was surrounded, and infilled by rubble rich demolition deposits, with frequent burnt stone evident, along with a high density of stone roof tiles, including imported Pennant sandstone roof tiles, all of which was absent in and around the remains of Structure 2. Only one potential Lias stone roof tile was recorded during the entire 2020 excavation, which was recorded on the surface of deposit 2802B just outside the north-east corner of Structure 2. No spreads of building rubble were evident either within or around Structure 2, with only rare isolated blocks encountered. The composition of deposit 2811 / 2812 was too uniform, and lacked the sufficient quantities of large stone blocks to argue that they were the product of a collapsed or demolished large stone building. The evidence suggests that the Structure 2 fabric was for the most part taken apart and removed from the site to be reused. The archaeological remains of Structure 1 on the other hand indicated that the walls of the building had buckled, which would have led invariably to instability and dilapidation if it was not demolished prior to collapse.

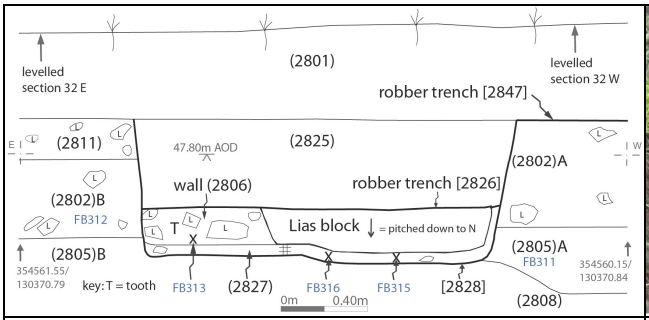


Figure 102. NNE-facing section drawing of robber cut [2826] removing wall 2806.

Figure 103. Photograph of Sondage 1 with wall 2809 & floor 2810. Looking WNW. 0.50m scale.

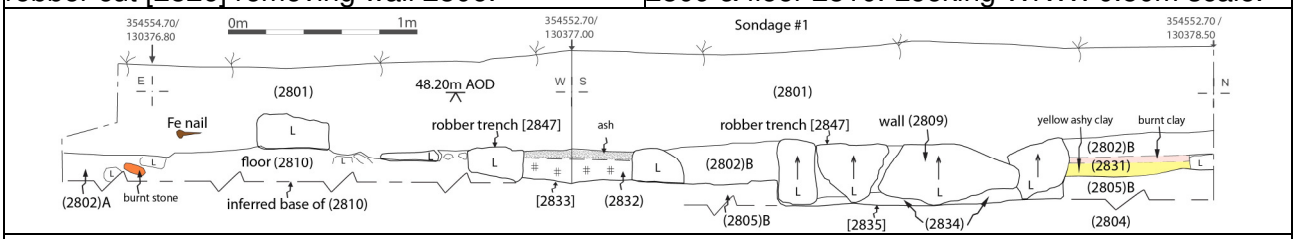


Figure 104. NNE & ESE–facing section drawings of Sondage 1. 1:40 scale.

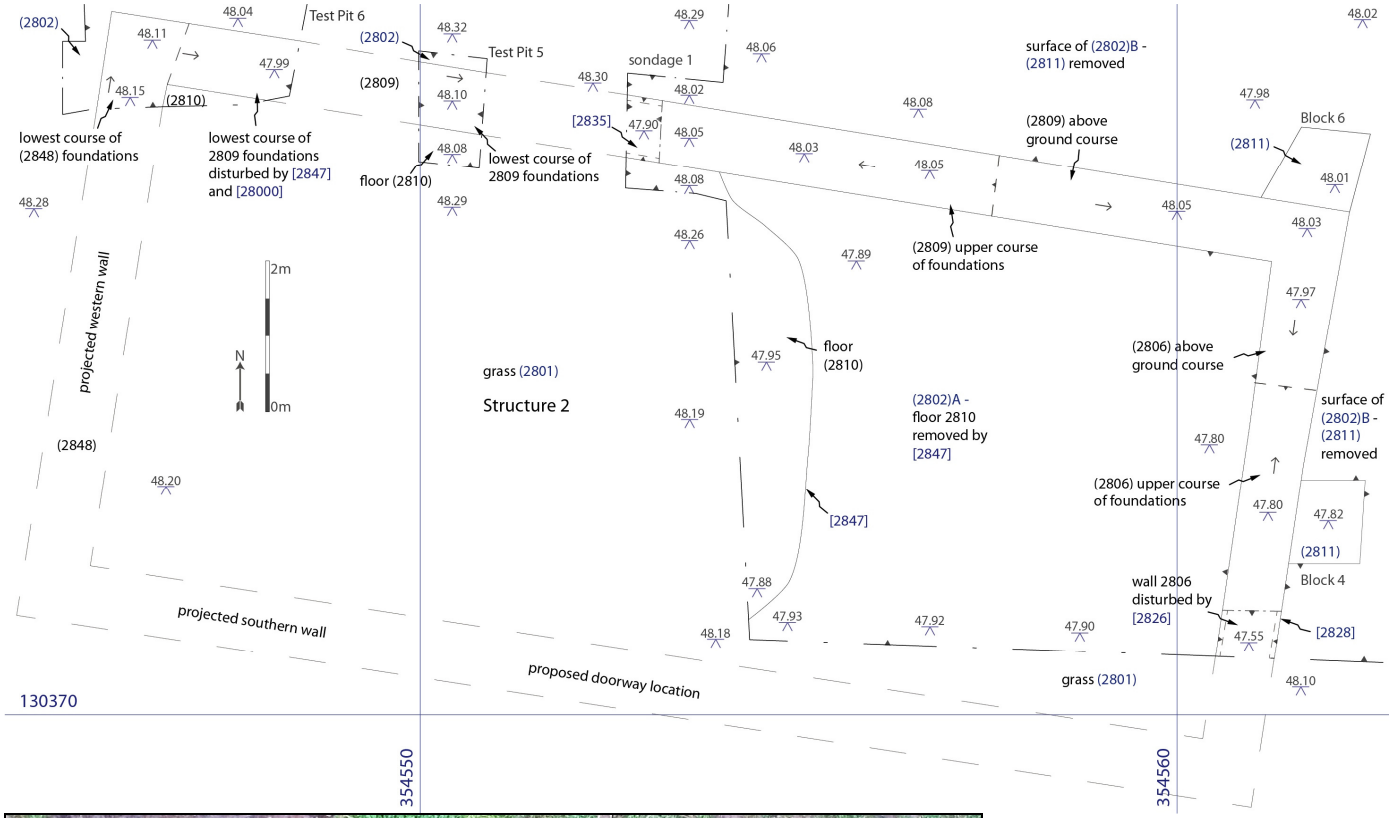


Figure 105.

Plan of Romano-British agricultural building Structure 2.

Blue context numbers = cuts & deposits.

Black context numbers = masonry.

1:100 scale.

Figure 106.

Drone photograph of Test Pit TP6 (left), Test Pit TP5 & Sondage 1 (right).

Structure 2 northern wall 2809, with right angled southern return wall foundation 2848 disturbed by demolition cut [2847] and plough truncation [28000]. Floor 2810 *in-situ* within TP5 & Sondage 1. 1m scales. North to the top.

Figure 107.

Annotated drone photograph of RB Structure 2 and its associated features.

1:100 scale.

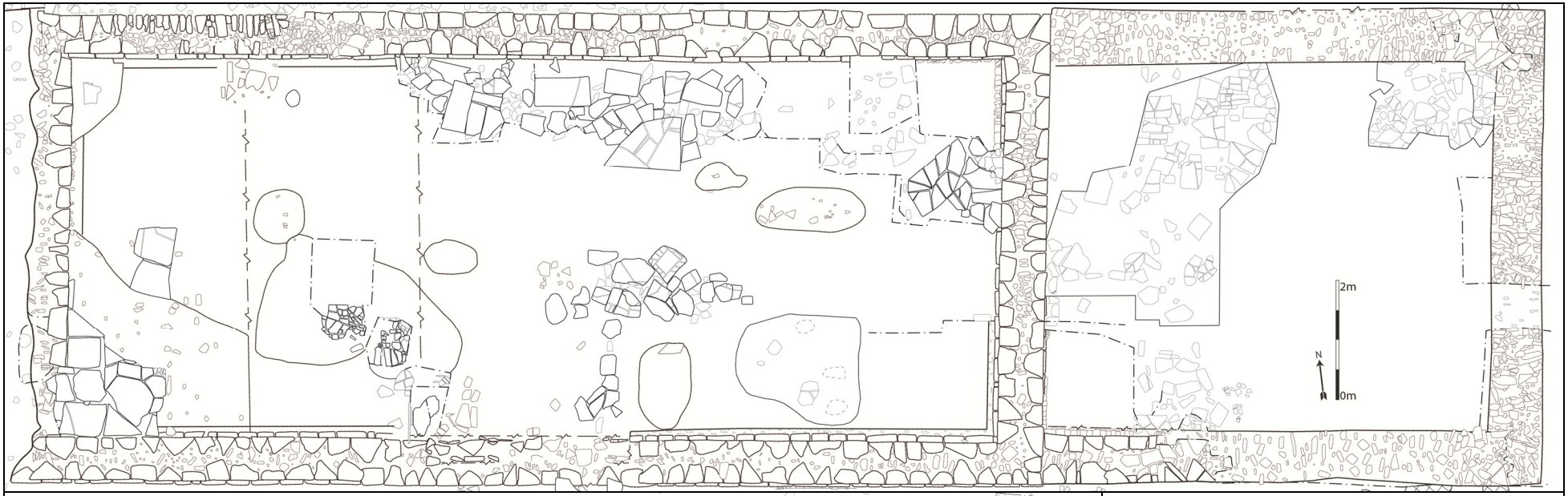
Figure 108.

Drone photograph of RB Structure 1.

Main building component F24101 is in the foreground, and extension F24102 is in the background.

The partially subsided and collapsed western wall is visible, along with the buckled western end of the northern wall where the surface of the foundations have been exposed and the faced stone is absent.

Looking ESE.



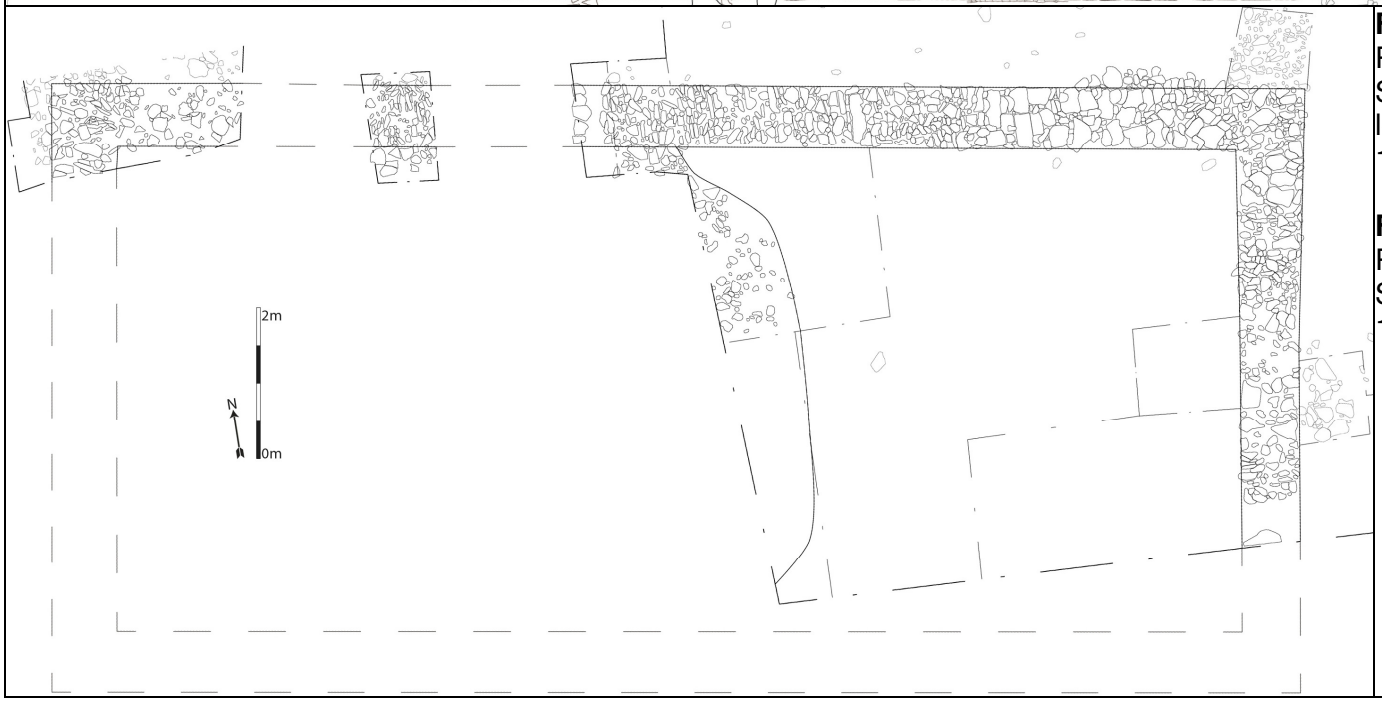


Figure 109. (top)
Plan of KML17 Romano-British barn Structure 1 with main building F24101 to the left, and extension F24102 to the right.
1:100 scale.

Figure 110. (left)
Plan of KML20 Romano-British barn Structure 2.
1:100 scale.

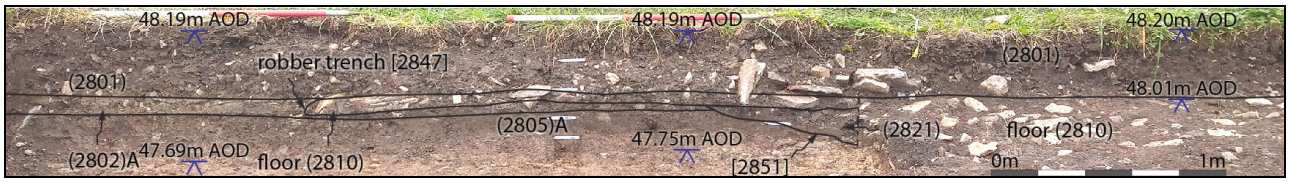


Figure 111. Annotated photograph of a cross section through Structure 2 within the western Area 28 section. Illustrates ruined floor 2810 partially removed by demolition cut [2847]. Pit [2851] / ABG 2821 is shown beneath floor 2810. 1m scales.

12.0 Medieval to Modern Periods — Appendix 4 Site Phase 6

12.1 Remnants of the Medieval Ridge & Furrow

A series of six linear features were exposed within Areas 25, 26 and 27, all of which traversed the excavation zones on a WSW-ENE alignment with slight divergence, underlying the ploughsoil, cutting through the later IA-RB occupation deposit, and occasionally truncating sub-surface features. The preservation of these linear features became more distinct as they proceeded southwards through Areas 25 to 27, due to the increasing depth of the soil profile, with marked uniformity in width, depth and spacing between 7m to 9m apart. Interpreted as the vestige of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, these features represented the base of the furrows, with the ridges truncated by subsequent post-medieval agricultural activity. The features were numbered [2512] and [2563] within Area 25, [26169] and [26171] within Area 26 and [2767] and [2769] within Area 27. No features relating to this element of medieval agricultural practice were identified within Area 28.

12.2 Medieval Open Fields Summary & Subsequent Ploughsoil Truncation

12.2.1 The proposed layout of the medieval open fields surrounding Keinton Mandeville, prior to Inclosure, has been outlined in **Chapter 4**, **Figure 12**. Additional evidence to support the presence of ridge and furrow ploughing can be shown on LiDAR image. Although obscured by the later post-medieval 'narrow rig' ploughing within the site boundary, the LiDAR image clearly illustrates the continuation of 'broad rig' immediately to the west of the enclosed field boundary of West Field, with additional vestiges of the field systems visible to the north and east of the village.

12.2.2 This system of medieval agriculture was utilised to improve drainage and soil fertility, necessary in heavy clay soils where productivity would have been paramount (Williamson, 2003, 141-159). Subdivision of the open fields was also practiced, either due a change of land use, to delineate a particular farmer's holding, or to mark the boundaries of neighbouring villages and manors. A prominent NNW-SSE aligned boundary can be seen c.150m west of West Field; this probably represents a 'headland', the area created by turning plough teams, between Kingweston and Keinton Mandeville parishes.

12.2.3 Post-medieval enclosure of West Field, and the associated changes in the agricultural regime, saw the truncation of the medieval open field ridges by new ploughing methods and techniques, most notably by the introduction of mechanical ploughing during the C20th. The truncation at the base of the ploughsoil is represented by cut [#000] throughout all excavated areas (**Chapter 7**). Post-medieval artefacts collected throughout the project were rare, numbering 17 x sherds of pottery, 1 x lump of Fe metal working residue, 1 x lump of Pb metal working residue, and the broken tip of an iron agricultural tool.

13.0 Material Culture

- Appendix 15 Specialist Report - Grooved Ware Lipid Analysis- Julie Dunne
- Appendix 9.....Material Culture Photographic Gallery
- Appendix 13 Finds List
- Appendix 11 Separate Materials Finds Plans

13.1 Pottery

13.1.1 A total of 8,265 sherds of pottery were recovered from the 2020 Lakeview Quarry excavations, weighing 57,405kg, with a mean sherd weight of c.7.00g. The pottery has been listed and analysed by HAC at a basic level ahead of forthcoming specialist input. The pottery assemblage has been grouped into broad stratigraphic and historic periods.

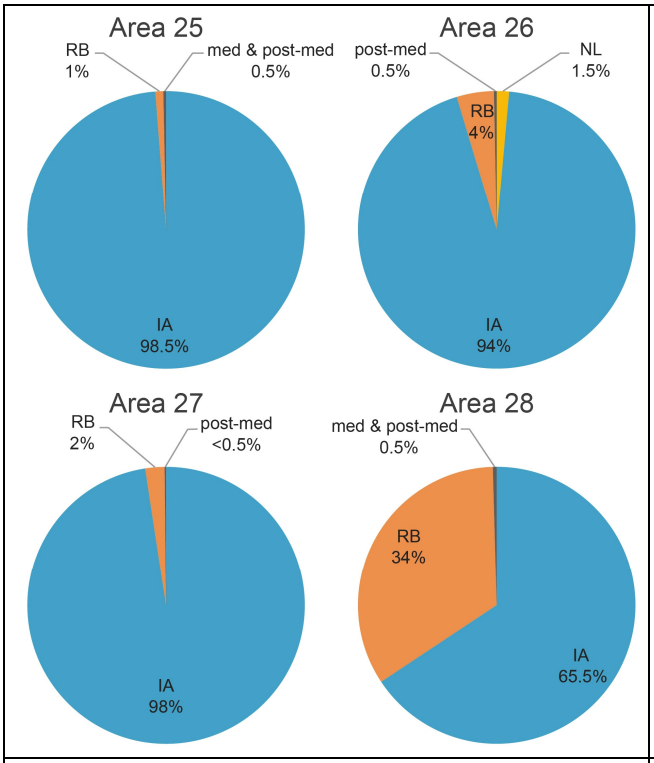


Figure 112. Pie charts of the total count of dated pottery from each of the 2020 Lakeview Quarry archaeological excavation areas.

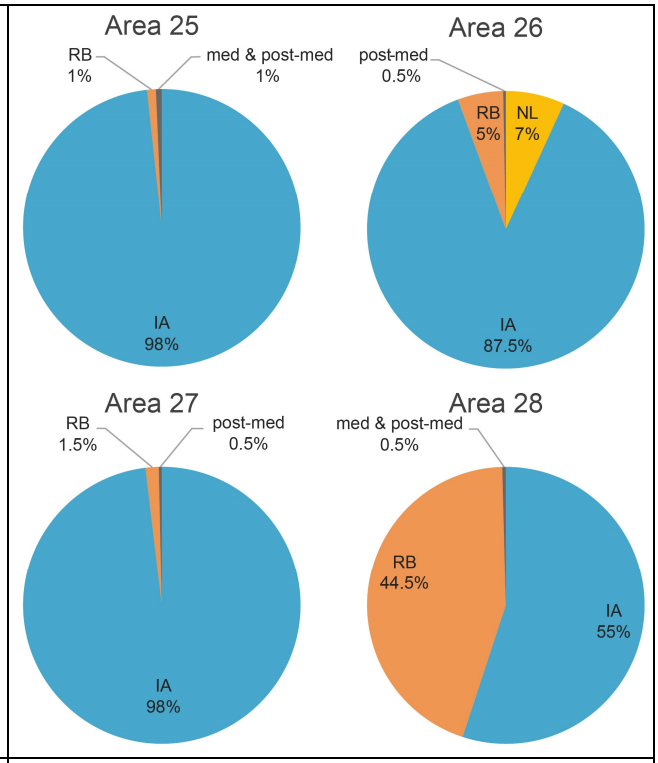


Figure 113. Pie charts of the total weights of dated pottery from each of the 2020 Lakeview Quarry archaeological excavation areas.

13.2 Site Phase 1a Late Neolithic Pottery

13.2.1 Grooved Ware is the name given to a pottery style of the later British Neolithic. This distinctive style of ceramics, specifically the Rinyo type, developed in Orkney, during the early 3rd millennium BCE, and was soon adopted or / and distributed across Britain and Ireland (Bradley, 2007, 134). The southward spread of Grooved Ware from the north of Scotland suggests the renewal or enhancement of inter-regional contacts and trade routes (Bradley, 2007, 116; cited in Thomas, 2010, 2). Substantive data accrued from excavations of Neolithic sites in southern Britain has resulted in a reclassification of British Grooved Ware into three relatively distinct sub-styles: Durrington Walls, Clacton and Woodlands (Thomas, 1999, 114) (see Figure 115 below). At Durrington Walls, for example, the material was frequently associated with dwellings, monuments and feasting activities, with residues from the pottery indicating ale and pork were consumed (Wainwright and Longworth, 1971; Parker Pearson *et al*, 2008).

13.2.2 The pottery sherds from pit [2675] were positively identified as Grooved Ware by prehistoric pottery specialists Dr. Elaine Morris and Dr. Alistair Barclay. Correspondence relayed that the pottery is *'…likely to be Clacton-style Grooved Ware and as the name suggests is more common on the east side of England. If this is from the south-west then it is more important – less common stylistically. It could be as early as 3000BCE"* (Barclay, A, 9th August, 2021, *pers. comm.*).

13.2.3 The Grooved Ware assemblage from pit [2675] comprised 32 large sherds weighing 1.11kg, with a considerable average sherd weight of c.35g. The sherds were decorated with chevrons of short slashes, horizontal grooves and stabbed dots. All of the sherds appeared to be from a single vessel, which, at present, appear to represent a sizeable container almost as large as the pit itself. However, the volume of the assemblage recovered during the excavation of the pit only represents a fraction of the original vessel. For example, few or no rim and / or base sherds have been identified, suggesting the possibility that some of the assemblage might have been removed by the later IA features, or, alternatively, that the vessel was broken-up prior to deposition. A tight stack of several Grooved Ware sherds were present within the matrix of pit fill 2773, suggesting that the vessel could not have been deposited intact. The surviving material showed few signs of wear or abrasion, indicating that the recovered material has remained more or less *in-situ* since deposition.

13.2.4 Results from Organic Residue Analysis (ORA) of the carbonised material adhering to the interior of some of the SF29 Grooved Ware sherds determined that *'two sherds only comprised trace lipids with the remaining sherd containing a very low lipid concentration. The* $\delta^{13}C$ *values for the* $C_{16:0}$ *and* $C_{18:0}$ *fatty acids from this sherd suggest that the vessel may have been used to process a mixture of ruminant and non-ruminant carcass products, although the lipid concentration suggests that it did not see sustained use as a cooking vessel and may have solely been used to process carcass products prior to deposition.'* (Dunne et al, 2021). However, this data came with the caveat that the presence of lipid contamination detected from the samples meant that the results must be interpreted with caution. As the sherds were excavated and stored under sterile conditions, and the external surfaces cleaned in the laboratory prior to analysis, the probability is that the source of the contamination originated from something within the soil, i.e. bacteria, that had permeated into the fabric of the ceramic (Dunne, J., 26th October, 2021, *pers. comm.*).

13.2.5 Archaeological research has demonstrated varied patterns regarding the depositional treatment between the different Grooved Ware pottery typologies. The Durrington Walls Grooved Ware type of vessels have been shown to have been placed within in a relatively wide range of contexts, including henges and ring ditches, whereas the deposition of Clacton-style pots has generally been restricted to pits, open sites and old land surfaces (Thomas, 1999, 119-120). The Keinton Mandeville Clacton-style Grooved Ware decorations are similar to sherds of the same Grooved Ware type recovered from excavations at nearby Cadbury Castle Iron Age Hillfort. The Cadbury sherds were sealed beneath the northern inner bank of the IA earthworks, and were the only ceramics of this type recovered from the study area (Tabor and Randall, 2018, 26-27). Both factors are therefore striking in that (a) Clacton-style Grooved Ware remains are sparse in southern Britain to the west of Salisbury Plain, and (b) the Cadbury and Keinton sites are both situated upon locally higher ground, within close regional proximity of each other (approx.10 miles). These correlations imply that there was an inter-connected relationship between the Cadbury Castle and Keinton Mandeville archaeological sites during the later Neolithic, which were significant sites during this period.

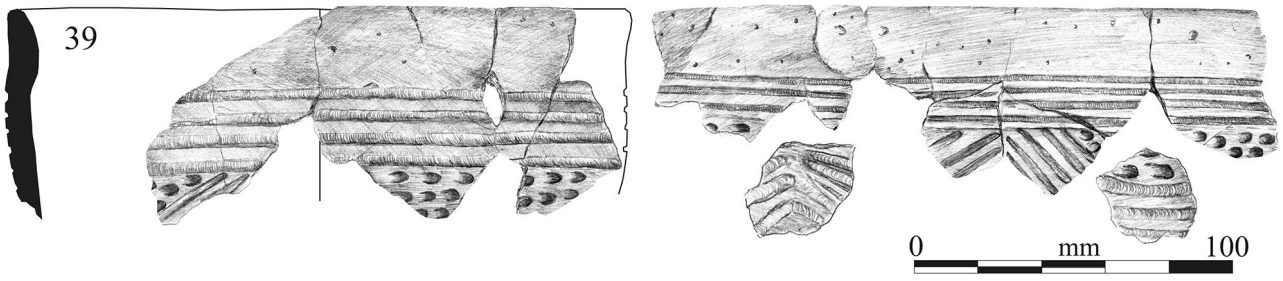


Figure 114. Illustration of the Clacton-style Grooved Ware sherds recovered from excavations at Cadbury Castle (Tabor and Randall, 2018, 27). 1:3 scale.

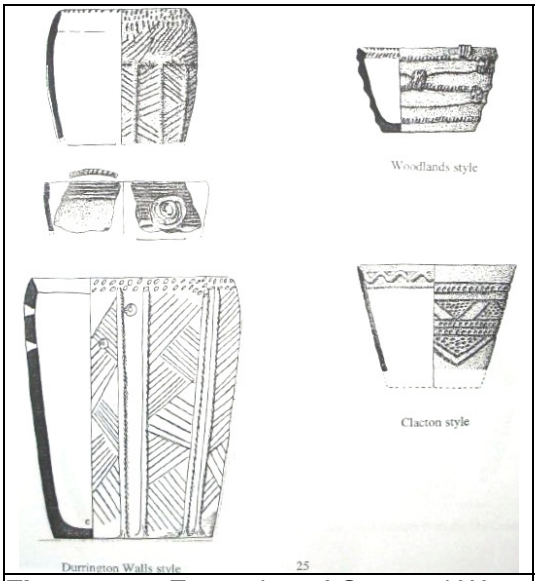


Figure 115. Examples of Grooved Ware vessels from southern Britain (Mepham, 2000, 25). Styles represented are: Durrington Walls (left), Woodlands (top-right), Clacton (bottom-right).

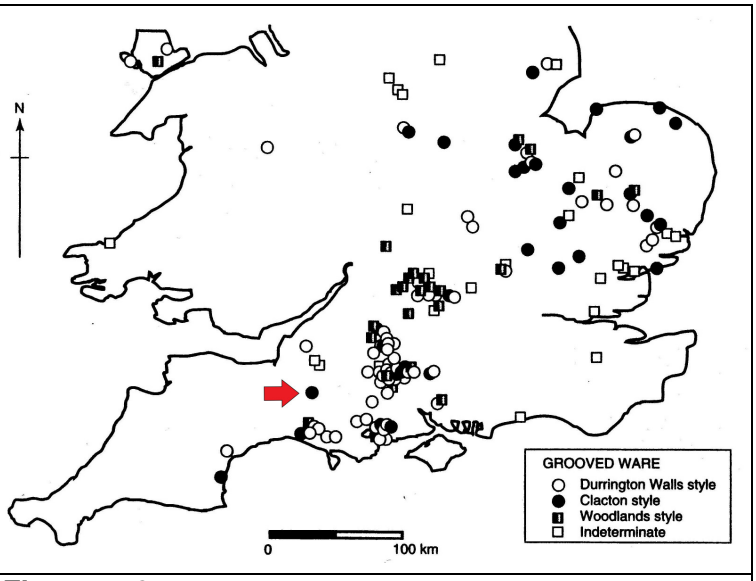


Figure 116.
Annotated distribution map of Grooved Ware in southern Britain (Thomas, 1999, 116).
Cadbury Castle, Somerset, indicated by red arrow, which lies around 10 miles south-west of the site. .

13.3 Iron Age Pottery

13.3.1 An abundant spread of Iron Age pottery was distributed across the 2020 archaeological site, constituting the vast majority of the artefactual assemblage. The 2020 IA pottery collection amounted to a substantial total of 7,492 sherds weighing 50.02kg, resulting in an average spatial distribution around 10 x IA pot sherds per square meter of the excavations, with an average sherd weight of just 6.7g, although sherds with weights of 20g up to 150g were not uncommon. Iron Age pottery within the KML20 excavation was concentrated within the three northern areas, with Area 28 accounting for just 11% (by count) of the collection despite it being the largest of the four areas.

13.3.2 An indication of the scale of the Keinton Mandeville 2020 IA pottery collection is demonstrated by comparison with the 2011, 2012 & 2013 Ham Hill excavations which amassed 6,070 later prehistoric pottery sherds weighing 36,702g. The area covered by these excavations (1.3ha) amounted to around sixteen times larger than the Lakeview 2020 excavations (0.08ha), and were conducted within a monument which is a 'colossal' hillfort, enclosing an area of some 88.1ha (Brittain, M et al, 2014).

13.3.3 The majority of the IA pottery had reduced fabrics with limestone or shell tempers, some of which had oxidised surfaces, mostly local wares, produced within or near to the site (Barclay, A., 9th August 2021, *pers comm.*). The use of local shell or limestone tempered fabrics is a common trait in this area, mirrored at Ham Hill (Morris 1987), Ilchester (Ellison 1982,125) and Pylle (Newton, 2018). Very few nationally recognised pottery types could be identified from the 2020 Iron Age assemblage. However, an initial analysis of a small collection of the pottery has identified several sherds of post-Deverel-Rimbury ware were recovered from storage pit [26117] and a handful of All Cannings Cross Ware were found from across the site (Barclay, A., 9th August 2021, *pers comm.*). This has allowed for some limited artefactual dating of the site ahead of scientific dating.

13.3.4 The Iron Age pottery collection can be stratigraphically subdivided into five groups based upon the site's depositional regime;
- site Phase 1a-1d subsoil #05
- earlier IA Phase 1d,
- later IA Phases 1e and 1f,
- Phase 1e-5 later IA - RB occupation deposit #02,
- and residual sherds contained within the RB and later features and deposits.

period / deposit	site phase	count	weight (g)	mean sherd weight
subsoil #05	1a-1d	705	3,658.0	5.2
earlier IA features	1d	1,197	7,728.0	6.5
later IA features	1e & 1f	1,119	9,221.5	8.2
LIA-RB occupation #02	1e-5	2,465	17,002.3	6.9
RB onwards	2 to 6	2,006	12,412.7	6.2

Figure 117. IA Pottery Quantities Summary Table.

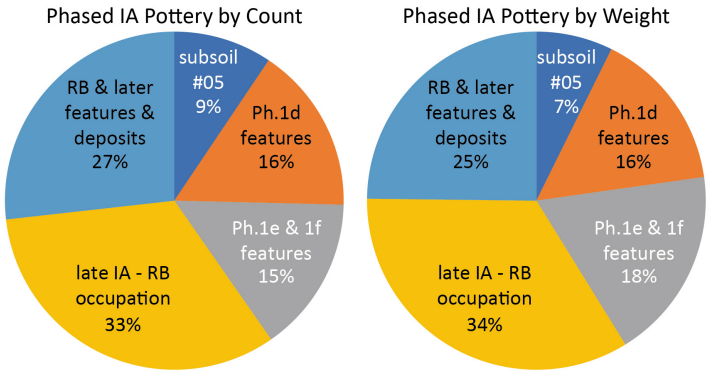


Figure 118.

Pie chart of the Iron Age pottery recovered from phased features and deposits.

13.3.5 Iron Age pottery was relatively infrequent within subsoil #05, wherein it also had a significantly lower average sherd weight compared to the other IA pot collections, presumably due to natural processes such as prolonged exposure and bioturbation. The interpretive value of this assemblage rests upon the knowledge that these sherds were recovered from a stratigraphically sealed context, as subsoil had stopped accumulating by the end of site Phase 1d prior to being sealed by deposit #02.

13.3.6 The IA pottery collection from the Phase 1d features was comparable in both quantity and weight to that of the Phase 1e-1f features. Similar shell and limestone tempered pottery fabrics appear to dominate the assemblage throughout. IA Pottery Quantities Summary Table Figure 118 implies that the average IA sherd weight from the later IA Phases 1e and 1f features is 1.5g heavier than the site average. However, the data for these sub-phases has been distorted by the contents of posthole [2734] / 2733, which contained 196 IA sherds weighing 3.1kg (16.0g av. weight). Removing the IA pottery assemblage from posthole [2734] from the average calculations for Phase 1e-1f pottery returns an average sherd weight similar to that of Phase 1d (6.6g per sherd). This result supplements the evidence presented by the faunal remains that the later Iron Age sub-phases represent a shorter, but more materially rich period for the settlement when compared to the preceding Phase 1d.

13.3.7 The most substantial single-context contribution of Iron Age pottery to the 2020 assemblage was recovered from the Phase 1e-5 LIA-RB occupation deposit #02. This result was anticipated because the deposit would have been accumulating during these periods when the Iron Age settlement was still active and extended across most of the 2020 excavation areas. Furthermore, the pottery assemblage from the site Phase 1e-5 contexts would have invariably contained a considerable volume of residual sherds reworked from the earlier Phase 1d period.

13.3.8 Residual IA pottery recovered from RB and later features, alongside ploughsoil #01 made up around a quarter of the total collection of IA pottery, which had been removed from their initial stratified settings. The average sherd weight from the post-IA phases was below the site average, reflecting some damage from ploughing, bioturbation and redeposition, but their weight was still significantly heavier than that of the pottery from subsoil #05.

13.4 Site Phase 2 Romano-British Pottery

13.4.1 A modest assemblage of Romano-British pottery was collected from the 2020 excavations, amounting to 717 sherds, weighing 5.64kg (av. sherd weight of c.8.00g), which equates to 8.7% of the total 2020 pottery assemblage.

13.4.2 The spatial distribution of the Romano-British pottery was concentrated towards the south end of the site, in and around RB Structure 2. Small, isolated RB pot assemblages were also recovered from RB rectangular feature [26135] and ditch [2650]. The strong association of RB artefactual material with RB stone Structures 1 and 2 is in accord with the notion that the buildings represent the remains of a focal area of an agricultural estate, and the areas to the north of the buildings were utilised as cultivated fields or pasture.

13.4.3 It is notable that there was a greater abundance of all types of artefactual material from Structure 1 compared to Structure 2. Most notably, 2,271 RB sherds (18,626kg) were collected from the Structure 1 excavation in 2017, amounting to three times the volume of the entire 2020 RB pottery collection, with a heavier average sherd weight. The proportions of the various RB pottery fabrics were broadly similar between the two structures, although Structure 1 did produce a greater proportion of greywares, and while fineware fabrics were comparatively rare within Structure 1, they were none the less present, whilst being all but absent from the interior of Structure 2.

13.4.4 In-house listing and recording of the 2020 RB pottery fabrics has provided a preliminary determination that Black Burnished Ware (BBW) comprised 55% of the collection by count, and coarsewares dominated overall. Seven sherds of Samian ware have been identified, contributing just below 1% of the total assemblage, a figure very typical of Roman rural settlements in the west of England (Timby, J., 18th Oct 2021, *pers comm.*). Some of the less typical RB pottery sherds collected included several decorated fineware bowl fragments, storage vessels, mortaria and several large fragments of a pedestal base which were recovered from the surface of rectangular feature [26135].

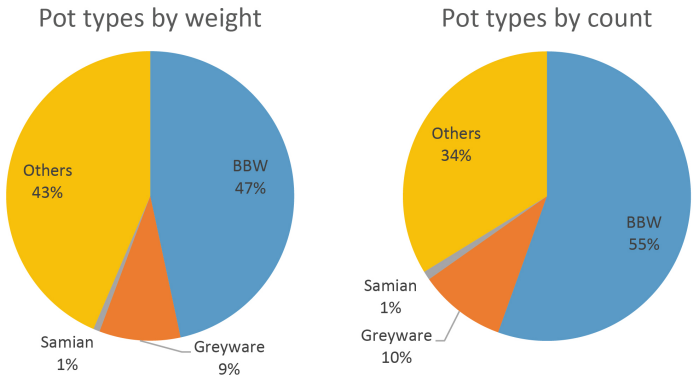


Figure 119.

Pie charts of the RB pottery fabrics recovered from the 2020 excavations as a whole.

Comparison of the two pie charts shows that the numerous BBW sherds were on average significantly lighter &/or smaller than the other fabric types.

13.5 Flint

13.5.1 The flint assemblage had generally survived in a good state of preservation. Only 25 pieces (8%) were broken. Patination (recortication) was also reasonably low (c.20%), as was the ratio of burnt flints (c.9%). This result suggested an uncomplicated post-depositional regime for the lithic assemblage.

13.5.2 Flint formed the greatest part of the lithic assemblage with only 9 pieces of chert (<3%) present overall. Although chert is found as a natural inclusion within the hard geology at Keinton Mandeville, resources of flint are located some distance from the site. Previous examination of lithic assemblages from the Somerset Levels and Mendip Hills, where flint outcrops do not occur, has highlighted complex exchange patterns of raw materials requiring the importation of flint into the region from Devon and the Dorset chalklands (Bond, 2004; 2011a; cited in Brittain *et al*, 2014, 69).

13.5.3 The assemblage can be sub-divided into two broad technological groups: the earlier Neolithic (with a possible element of late Mesolithic) blade and blade-based pieces, and later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age flake-based material.

13.5.4 Blade and blade-based pieces, including blades, bladelets, serrated blades, and both flake and blade removal cores, accounted for roughly 7% of the flint assemblage. With the inclusion of leaf-shaped arrowheads, this portion of the material most likely represented the earlier activity at the site, although the proportion of potentially late Mesolithic pieces present requires further specialist analysis. Evidence for hunter-gatherer transhumance between the coastal zones of Somerset and higher ground, notably the Mendip Hills, has been well documented (eg. Gardiner, 2009; 485-493) so the presence of microlithic technology, however sparse, should not be considered out of context in this instance.

13.5.5 Flakes and flake-based removals accounted for c.45% of the assemblage, and overall, probably represent a later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age technology. This could reflect an expedient approach to core reduction, with the knapper generally striking from unprepared platforms (Brittain *et al*, 2014, 71). Additionally, the presence of retouched flakes and scrapers, flake knives and awls / piercers possibly indicate a LNL / EBA date. However, the additional material (irregular waste, chips, and core fragments) could also indicate earlier Neolithic, or possibly late Mesolithic working areas. This factor again can only be determined through detailed specialist examination of the assemblage.

13.5.6 Examination of the worked flint and chert distribution during Neolithic to Middle Iron Age site Phases 1a to 1d did not reveal any particular defined pattern. The limited lithic distribution within Area 25 occurred primarily within the backfills of Iron Age features. Areas 26 and 27 contained more material of varying types such as flakes, tools etc. but once again the majority of the lithics were recovered from the backfills of the later features. There does, however, appear to be an increase in the rate of recovery from the subsoil and particularly its associated site Phase 1d features surrounding Grooved Ware pit [2675]. The majority, if not all, of the flint recovered from Area 28 was sealed within prehistoric subsoil 2805, where the flint distribution was relatively even across the central and western portion of the area. The types of artefact recovered here demonstrated a good representation of worked material, including flakes, chips, waste, tools, cores and unworked pieces.

13.5.7 The majority of the lithics within Area 25 were recovered from either within, or at the base of ploughsoil 2501, demonstrating the extent of displacement due to later agricultural disturbance. Of particular interest was excavation Block 1, which retained 0.10m x 2m x 2m of the base of ploughsoil 2501, and c.0.05m depth of deposit #02 at the centre of Area 25. The block was hand excavated, yielding 23 flint waste debris and a blade weighing a total of 115g. None of these artefacts were likely to be in their initial setting. The question arises as to whether any of the presumably later features within the area might be associated with this displaced flint material. In this respect, a detailed specialist review of the assemblage would be beneficial to assess the possible presence of flint items reused on the site during the Iron Age. This process could prove pertinent especially in the light of the reassessment of the flint report from the Glastonbury Lake Village excavations (Coles and Minnitt, 1995).

13.5.8 Within Areas 26 and 27 the flint and chert material was more evenly distributed between backfilled later IA features and their associated LIA-RB occupation deposit 2602 / 2702. A marked increase in flint distribution was noted surrounding, and within, middening area 2702A, located at the central part of Area 27. This phenomenon has been attributed to the migration of the flint material into the later deposit via displacement due to the increased ground disruption within this area over an extensive period.

13.5.9 Lithic recovery from the Area 28 site Phase 1e to 6 deposits and features was minimal, with flints predominantly recovered as residual material from backfilled pits either within, or cut by RB Structure 2. Four flints were retrieved from metalled surface 2811 to the north and east of

Structure 2, whilst 3 residual pieces were also collected from midden [2838]. This relative lack of material within the later features and deposits in Area 28 is accounted for in large part by the deeper depositional sequence preserved further downslope, where the majority of the flints were preserved within the subsoil.

Type	Area 25		Area 26		Area 27		Area 28	
	deposit	feature	deposit	feature	deposit	feature	deposit	feature
chip	7	4	3	6	12	2	3	*
irregular waste	8	7	2	9	6	4	5	*
flake	30	14	15	19	26	18	10	6
blade-like flake	*	*	*	*	2	*	*	*
blade	4	2	1	*	3	*	1	1
bladelet	*	1	1	1	1	1	3	*
side scraper	*	*	*	*	3	1	1	*
thumbnail scraper	*	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
discoidal scraper	*	*	*	1	*	*	*	*
flake knife	1	*	*	*	1	1	*	1
awl	*	*	*	*	2	*	*	1
leaf shaped arrowhead	2	*	*	2	*	*	*	*
arrowhead	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
retouched flake	4	2	3	4	5	4	3	2
serrated blade	*	*	2	*	1	*	*	*
single platform flake core	*	*	2	*	1	*	*	*
multi platform flake core	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
single platform blade core	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*
multi platform blade core	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*
core fragment	1	1	*	*	1	*	3	1
minimally worked core	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*
Total Worked Flint	***58***	***32***	***29***	***42***	***66***	***32***	***30***	***12***
unworked flint - (g)	1 (9.9)	*	2 (29.1)	2 (142.2)	1 (345.8)	1 (35.0)	1 (3.3)	1 (14.5)
burnt flint	2	4	1	3	5	7	3	1
chert (worked & unworked)	3	1	3	1	*	1	*	*

Figure 120. Basic breakdown of flint and chert recovered from the KML20 excavation.

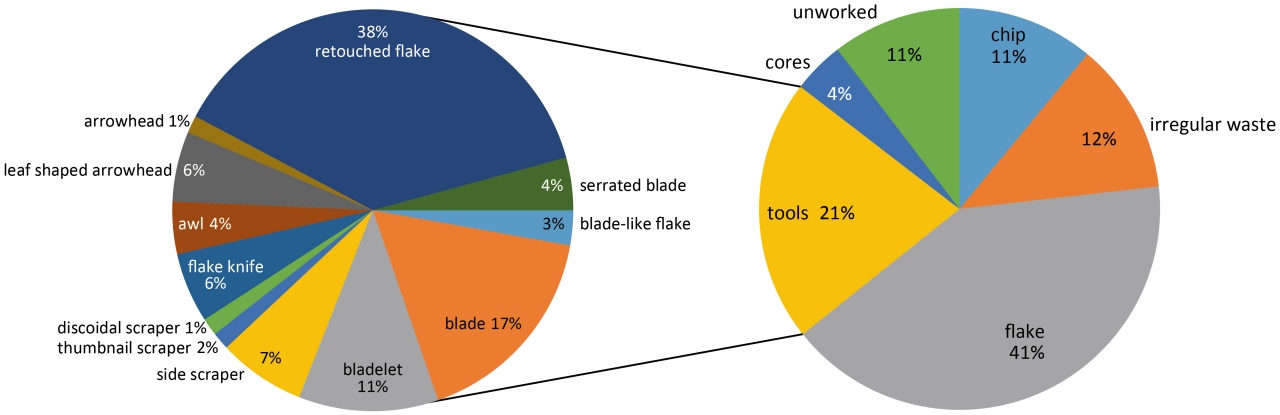


Figure 121. Pie chart of the quantities of each category of flint recovered from the KML20 excavation (right) and a further breakdown of the different tool types (left).

13.6 Faunal Remains

13.6.1 The 2020 Lakeview Quarry excavation yielded a total of 3,425 fragments of bone weighing 11.89kg as well as two inhumations (see Ch.9.9) alongside five Associated Bone Groups awaiting specialist analysis. The bone collection included several worked bone tools, including two needles, and multiple fragments with butchery markings.

13.6.2 Over half of the faunal remains by weight and volume were collected from the site Phase 1a to 1d deposits and features, primarily associated with the earlier development of the Iron Age settlement. There is also a distinct possibility that a small quantity of bone collected from the subsoil and earlier stratigraphic features predated the IA settlement, and was instead associated

with established activity on the site during the Bronze Age and Neolithic periods, but of course ascertaining which exactly which pieces would not be possible unless one was to take a very large series of radiocarbon dates. The pie chart of the phased faunal remains by weight (**Figure 122**) also indicates that the bone collected from the Phase 1a to 1d contexts tended to be larger in size.

13.6.3 The phased faunal remains distribution results could indicate that there was a gradual decrease in the population numbers occupying this part of the settlement from the earlier to later periods of the Iron Age. The absence of structures preliminarily dated to the later Iron Age period appears to reinforce such an interpretation when taken at face value. A more straight forward interpretation would be that the earlier Phase 1d settlement represents a longer time period than site Phases 1e and 1f, as a high density of archaeological features were created during the later Iron Age period, even though the interim results for this group did not include the remains of any structures. Furthermore, the archaeological excavations have only investigated a very small portion of the south edge of the Iron Age settlement, which is known to have extended to the north and west, potentially for a considerable distance prior to quarrying, making wide ranging conclusions speculative due to the lack of scale.

13.6.4 The vacancy of mass habitation on the site prior to, or during the Romano-British period is reflected by the phased faunal remains distribution results. Faunal remains from the Romano-British features only contributed around fifteen percent to the total assemblage. The low quantity of bone from the RB period is consistent with the interpretation that Structures 1 and 2 were agricultural buildings, as dwellings would have produced much greater volumes of food waste, and that King's Hill was no longer the site of settlement as it had been during the Iron Age.

13.6.5 Four of the five Associated Bone Groups recorded during the excavations were located beneath or nearby RB barn Structure 2. These features consisted of partially articulated skeletons, currently thought to be at least dominantly of caprid taxa, probably representing more than one animal in each feature, which were deposited within small pits, along with small quantities of waste materials within their backfills which could be generally interpreted as being associated with feasting. Three animal burials within this group neatly underlay barn floor 2810 at such close proximity as to negate the possibility that the builders of the barn were unaware of the presence of the animal skeletons within their shallow pits. Two small pits of a similar type to those found around Structure 2 were also recorded either within or abutting the western end of Structure 1, containing ABG 2459 and ABG 2467. The selection of domesticated sheep or/and goats for 'structured deposits' such as these was prevalent in Britain during both the IA and RB periods, furthermore "…sheep/goat multi-ABG deposits are most common in the early Romano-British period" (Morris, 2017, p.94).

13.6.6 These results seem to indicate a genuine correlation when one considers that the only one other structured deposition of animal bones within a pit which has been recorded at an appreciable distance from the RB buildings, was ABG 2780, within pit [2781]. This feature was however anomalous within the group, as it has been assigned preliminary phasing to earlier Iron Age site Phase 1d, and was physically incomparable to the other animal burials recorded on the site in terms of typology, contents, and function as it lay adjacent to infant burial Sk2, of which it is assumed to be directly associated. Therefore, animal burial within small pits around and beneath the Roman stone buildings currently appears to be a pattern of activity on the site.

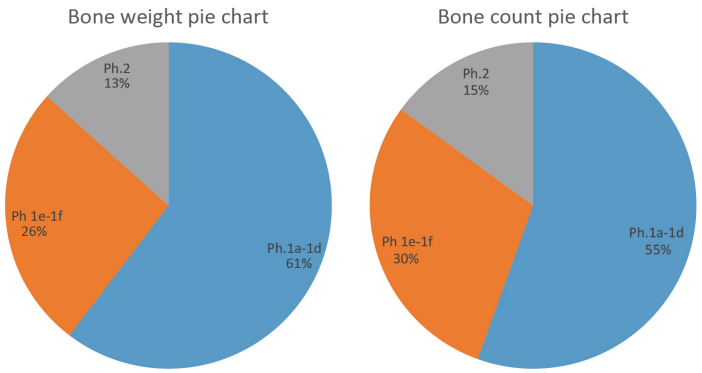


Figure 122.

Pie chart of the faunal remains recovered from the main site phases.

Note: bone from ABGs 2819, 2820, 2821 & 2839 are currently stored in sample bags awaiting specialist analysis, and are not included in this assessment.

13.7 Metal Artefacts

13.7.1 The overall quantity of metal artefacts recovered from the 2020 excavations was low, amounting to 48 metal artefacts (0.54kg). A total of 33 objects from this collection were manufactured from iron, and the remaining 15 items were all made from Cu alloy. The vast majority of the metal artefacts were recovered from the Romano-British features and deposits, as there were only a couple of prehistoric metal artefacts found.

13.7.2 No metal artefacts were retrieved from the subsoil, which was extant as the land surface up until near the end of the prehistoric period. No ferrous artefacts were collected from the features and deposits associated with the earlier Iron Age settlement. Two small and very light Cu alloy artefacts were however present within two of the Iron Age Phase 1d features. Thin Cu alloy penannular ring SF33 was collected from the grave fill near the left side of Sk.2 skull, which has been interpreted as an earring belonging to the interred individual. The only other metal artefact recovered from this period was Cu alloy lump SF20 from upper large storage pit [2542] backfill 2541 which was tiny, only weighing 1g. Although there was a paucity of metal artefacts from the earlier Iron Age settlement, ferrous metal working residues and proposed associated features were extant.

13.7.3 A small assemblage of thirty metal artefacts recovered from the site were either found from a small collection of Romano-British features, or from later IA – RB occupation deposit #02, most or all of which are considered most likely to date from the Romano-British period, as opposed the later Iron Age. A few significant Romano British metal objects had also been worked into ploughsoil #01, including a couple of coins, and some ferrous blades, some of which might date from the RB period. The identifiable metal artefacts from occupation deposit #02 consisted of four Fe nails and small RB Cu alloy stylus cover SF18. The majority of the RB metal objects were collected in association with pit [2838], most notably the four Cu alloy coins, including two from the late C3rd, alongside several Fe nails, all of which are consistent with the interpretation that fill 2813 was the truncated remains of a large refuse heap.

13.7.4 A somewhat intriguing small group of unusual metal artefacts, which appeared to be of RB type, were lying upon the surface of large pit [26110], which otherwise exclusively yielded Iron Age diagnostic material. The finds consisted of Fe object SF27 which resembled a Roman style ballista bolt or javelin head, and S-shaped Cu alloy clasp with beaded end, and a very small Cu alloy bead collected together as SF26. These items were embedded into the surface of upper pit backfill 26107. Large pit [26110] and its immediate surroundings stood out due the abundance of waste and soil inclusions that led to the interpretation of the area as a site of communal feasting. It is possible of course that the placement of the metal artefacts was merely coincidental from a much later time period, although the rarity of metal jewellery and weaponry on the site renders it most probable that these two items were associated with one-another. It appears most plausible that the metal RB artefacts were worked into the top of backfill 26107 by natural processes, and are stratigraphically associated with deposit 2602, however, their placement upon the surface of large pit [26110] does present the prospect that the feature represented an example of transition from the C1st BCE – C1st CE. The ambiguity regarding SF26 and SF27 has led to the artefacts and pit [26110] being stratigraphically designated to either site Phase 1f or Phase 2a.

13.7.5 The collection of 17 metal artefacts found in association with RB stone building Structure 2 was unsubstantial compared to the assemblage of 164 RB metal objects (1.16kg) collected from adjacent RB Structure 1. Even when one considers that Structure 1 was uncovered and excavated in its entirety, whereas over fifty percent of Structure 2 remained beneath the topsoil, this result indicates a significant divergence between the two buildings. This result is superficially satisfying as Structure 1 was evidently the finer building, so it follows that it contained the greater quantity of valuable metal artefactual material. Both buildings were however generally characterised by relatively small volumes of low status finds, indicative of their non-domestic use within a rural landscape context.

13.7.6 The Structure 1 metal assemblage was dominated by 101 Fe nails, presumably originally largely part of the building fabric. An example of such use of Fe nails was their utilisation to peg the stone roof tiles in place. Only one Cu alloy brooch (SF6) was found within the interiors of either building. Also there were only 4 coins contained within and surrounding Structure 1. It is possible that Structure 2 was in use for a much shorter time period than Structure 1, or that one building replaced the other. If that was the case it would be logical that Structure 2 dated to an earlier period when the Roman material culture was less advanced in the British Isles. This explanation does not however fit well with the stratigraphic evidence of metalled surface 2811 / 2812 sealing large refuse pit [2838] which contained coins from the late C3rd, before neatly abutting Structure 2, which it almost certainly served. A more mundane explanation might be that Structure 2 was frequented less than Structure 1, and served a more functional purpose such as storage, only requiring an infrequent human presence.

13.7.7 A few diagnostic medieval and post medieval metal artefacts were also found on the site, even though it would have been open fields during these periods. Research has identified that small metal detecting find MD6 was a "…copper alloy book fitting; a book clasp hook-piece of early post-Medieval date, about AD1450 – 1600" (PAS, 2021, Record ID: SWYOR-A411C7). Metal detecting find MD7 was a thin, flanged Cu alloy strip sheared at both ends which probably dated to a similar period. Other metal objects from the ploughsoil included seven Fe nails, and several broken Fe agricultural implements which are assumed to date to the medieval period.

13.8 Metal working residue

13.8.1 Although the site was characterised by low volumes of metal working residues as well as metal artefacts, an inverse narrative is implied, as the vast majority of metal working residues were recovered from the site Phase 1d deposits and features associated with the earlier development of the Iron Age settlement. The metal working residue assemblage was made up in its entirety of Fe slag which amounted to 69 fragments (0.49kg), with the sole exception of Pb slag MD4 (71g) which was recovered from the ploughsoil during metal detecting, and is likely to date from Romano-British period. Pb slag MD4 has not been incorporated into metal working residue pie chart Figure 125 due its increased weight of 71g, which is massively in excess of the average 7.6g weight of an individual piece of Fe slag from the 2020 excavations.

13.8.2 The phase 1d features and deposits contributed 41 pieces of mostly small Fe slag to the collection, weighing 269.5, amounting to 59% of the total assemblage. There was only one Fe slag lump collected from the subsoil, towards the southern end of the site with no obviously connected nearby features. The remaining Phase 1d metal working residue were collected from the fills of features, wherein they were more concentrated towards the northern areas of the site. The Phase 1d features with the strongest association with ferrous metal working residue were Structure 3 eaves drip gully [2547], the upper fill of storage pit [2542] and its associated proposed Post Structure C; and most significantly slag pit [26165], which has been interpreted as the truncated remains of a non-tapping slag pit furnace. The contents of slag pit [26165] amounted to a c.15L volume Fe slag and clay mix, which is a likely source for at least some of the residual, isolated Fe slag lumps recovered elsewhere on the dig site, especially within the area due north of the slag pit contained within Proposed Post Structure A (note – the pit [26165] material has not been processed or included within the current data set). An example of this was that a single, large piece of ceramic furnace lining weighing 0.87kg (SF30) was recovered from the surface of posthole

[25158], which is theorised to have initially originated from adjacent slag pit [26165]. It has been suggested that Structure 3 was not a domestic dwelling of the same type as IA Structures 4 and 5 in part due to the increased frequency of Fe slag surrounding and within eaves drip gully [2547].

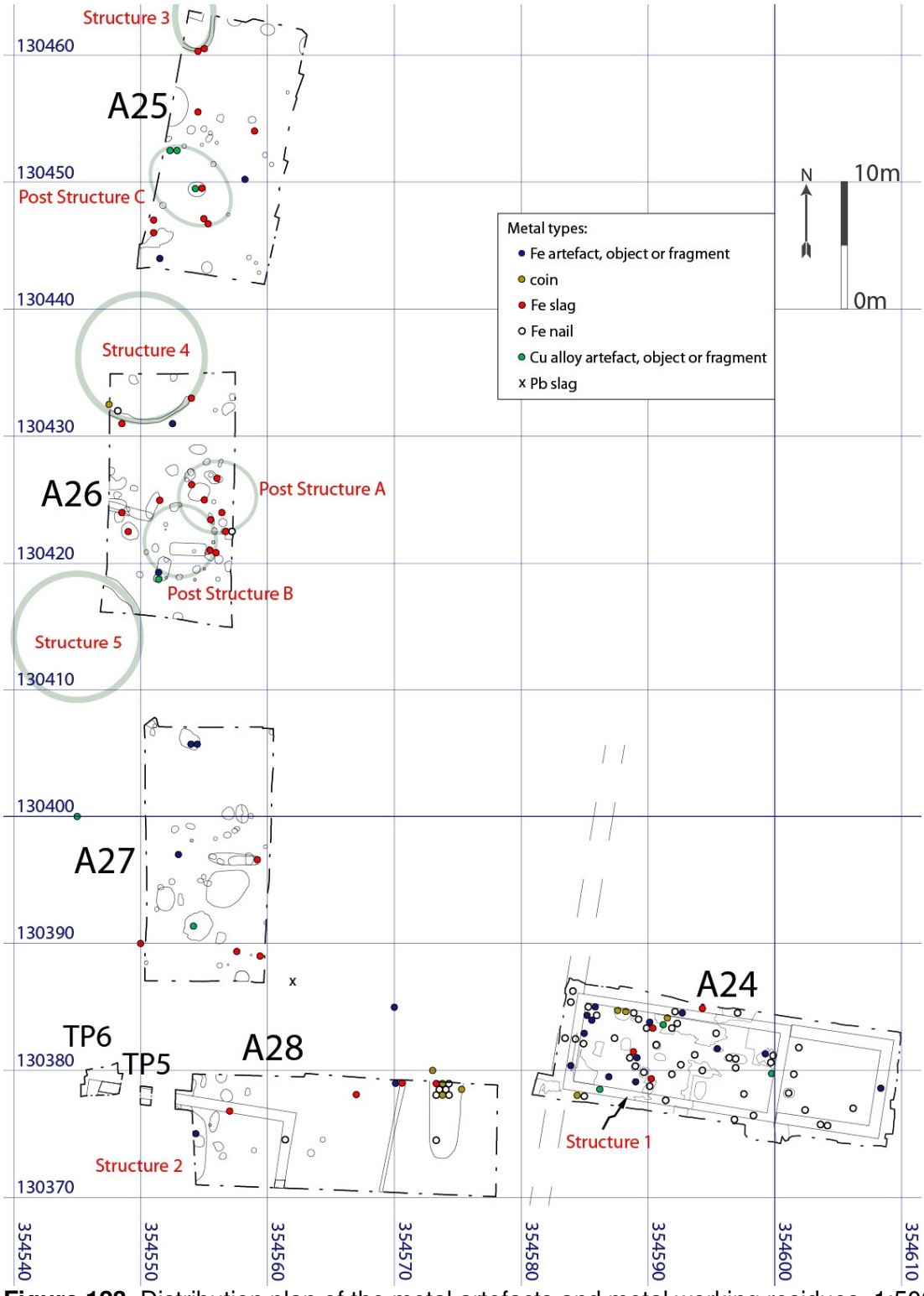


Figure 123. Distribution plan of the metal artefacts and metal working residues. 1:500 scale.

13.8.3 The only other context to yield quantities of Fe slag of any appreciable scale was later IA to RB occupation deposit #02, from which only 10 items were collected (36.6g), 7 of which were found in the area of slag pit [26165], and are probably associated. No metal working residues were collected from the later Iron Age Phase 1e or Phase 1f features. A total of 15 further ferrous metal working residue (111g) were collected from the ploughsoil across the site.

13.8.4 The only Fe slag lumps produced from any solidly Romano-British contexts were two Fe slag lumps of reasonable size from metalled surface deposit 2811, where it abutted the north-east corner of BR Structure 2. No Fe slag was collected from the interior of Structure 2, which was in keeping with the results from Structure 1 which yielded only 5 small Fe slag lumps (16g). There is no way of determining how many of the Fe metal working residues had worked their way up the stratigraphic frame due to ploughing, trample, etc, but there is a high likelihood that at least some did.

13.8.5 Conclusion of the metal artefacts and residues results Analysis of the metal artefacts and residues results sets out a narrative. Small scale iron production and working was undertaken on this part of the site during some stage(s) of the earlier development of the IA settlement (Phase 1d), but worked metal objects were incredibly rare. The evidence for metal working on this part of the site during the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods is negligible. No features have been observed with appreciable quantities of metal working residues from these periods, including within stone buildings Structures 1 and 2. The near absence of metal working indicators around the RB buildings is consistent with the interpretation that they were agricultural barns, as was the low quantities of imported RB metal artefacts, especially regarding the scarcity of higher status RB artefacts such as coins and jewellery.

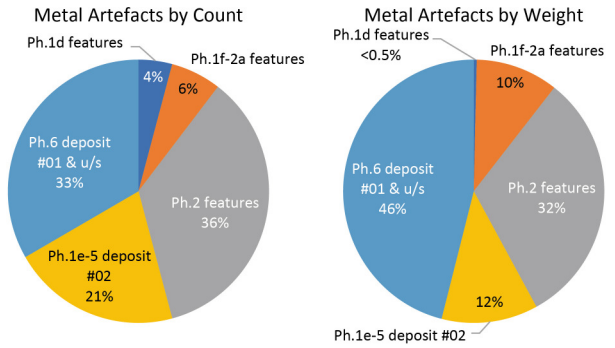


Figure 124. Pie charts of the metal artefacts recovered from each of the 2020 excavation areas, arranged by phase.

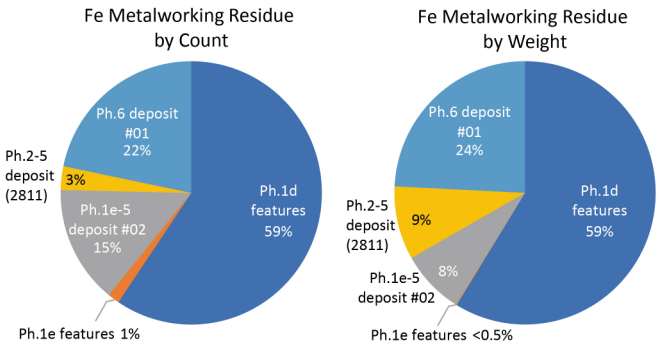


Figure 125. Pie charts of the isolated Fe slag fragments recovered from each of the 2020 excavation areas. These results do not include the contents of slag pit [26165], or the single piece of Pb slag from Area 27 (FB285).

13.9 Glass

13.9.1 Three shards of glass were collected from the site which had similar pale blue fabrics, with thin walls and air bubbles, which are considered to most likely be shards of Romano-British blue vessel glass. Two of the glass shards were unstratifiable as they were collected from the ploughsoil and a spoil heap. The third shard however was sealed near the base of Romano-British site Phase 2 rectangular pit [26135], which has been postulated to be a potential cremation pit. RB glass shard SF-28 lay within close proximity to RB fineware pedestal base SF24, which is suspected of containing cremated human remains within pit [26135] (Ch.11.5). None of the glass shards were decorated and all of them were too small to interpret the original form of the vessels.

13.9.2 Romano-British glass was generally used for high quality vessels, meaning that low volumes of glass within an assemblage are generally considered indicative of less affluent settlements (Cool, 1995). This rule does not strictly apply to the Lakeview site however, which has been interpreted as an agricultural site during the RB period, outlying the principal areas of habitation. The presence of the vessel glass within a non-domestic RB landscape such as this is somewhat of a surprise, reinforcing the perceived ritual aspects of pit [26135], which was truncated by ploughing, prompting the possibility that the three vessel glass recovered in 2020 are broken fragments of one vessel. No Romano-British glass shards were collected from the excavations of Structure 1.

13.10 Worked stone

13.10.1 The 2020 excavations yielded only four worked stone tools. Large polishing stone SF36 and Lias stone loom weight SF35 were collected from the fills of site Phase 1d features. Inferior oolitic limestone spindlewhorl SF34 was present within the later IA - RB occupation de[posit 2602, and small black polished stone FB321 was retrieved from the Area 25 spoil heap.

13.10.2 Large polishing stone SF36 (383g) was a water worn riverine limestone pebble. The artefact had been broken into three pieces prior to deposition upon the surface of posthole [2687], as only two of the pieces fitted back together. SF36 has been interpreted as a polishing stone due to the smooth, polished surfaces on all sides, indicative of repeated use over a prolonged time. The stone appears to have been specially selected, as the nearest sites from which the polisher could have been transported were the Brue or Cary rivers, several miles from the site.

13.10.3 Loom weight SF35 (197g) is the only tool so far recovered from West Field that was manufactured from the local Blue Lias stone. The artefact was found intact within the basal fill of Phase 1d large storage pit [26113]. It had a hexagonal disc-shape (80 x 100mm diameter), with a precise central circular perforation (6mm diameter), which is a rare typology noted in the 2013 Ham Hill excavation report where several loomweights of this form were found, manufactured from the Ham stone, local to that site. Iron Age loom weights were typically fashioned from baked clay in a triangular pyramid shape. Objects similar to SF35 have been found elsewhere in Britain, created from more easily worked local stone types than Lias such as chalk & shale (Brittain, 2013, p.106).

13.10.4 Spindlewhorl SF34 (25g) was collected during hand cleaning of deposit 2602, on the interior of Structure 4 eaves drip gully [2644]. SF34 was created from inferior oolite limestone, the nearest source of which is the eastern Mendip hills around Doulting, approximately 15km to the NE of Keinton Mandeville. The spindlewhorl appeared to have sustained frost damage in antiquity, as the outer surfaces were beginning to peel and crack, suggesting that it was exposed for some time. The quality of SF34 was inferior to both of the spindlewhorls found within KML17 Roman Barn Structure 1 (SF1 & SF4), which were formed of superior materials (shale and bone respectively) and bore inscribed decoration. The simple form of spindlewhorl SF34 and its position within the Structure 4 eaves drip gully suggests that the artefact most likely belonged to the Iron Age settlement rather than the Roman Barns.

13.10.5 Small, black polished stone FB321 (9.6g) had numerous, fractured, flat faces, polished to a shine, and at first glance resembled an Fe musket ball in size and shape; certainly, the stone appeared to be ferrous, displaying iron staining across the surface. The small size and fragmented surface of this object make it difficult to interpret, as it would have been uncomfortable to hold and as likely to scratch a surface as polish it.

13.11 Medieval Artefacts

13.11.1 The incidence of medieval finds recovered throughout the project was lower than the post-medieval finds collection. In total, 8 x sherds of medieval courseware, and 1 x fragment of Cu alloy were collected. A single i*n-situ* medieval pot sherd was retrieved from fill 2511 at the eastern extent of plough furrow [2512], four residual sherds were collected during machining through ploughsoil 2801 along with two intrusive sherds from subsoil 2802B, and one intrusive sherd was recovered from ditch fill 24116N during cleaning of the N-facing section of IA boundary ditch [24121]N. Cu alloy strip MD-6 was recovered from the A27 spoil heap has been identified as a fragment of an early post-medieval book clasp. The artefact had two sides held together with rivets, measured 40 x 17mm, and had a flared and scalloped front end.

13.11.2 The significant lack of medieval artefacts and structures encountered during the project indicates that the site lay outside of the main settlement from the post-Roman period onwards. The extent of the open fields surrounding the village confirms that farming and cultivation were carried out from at least the time of Domesday, with an apparent eastward settlement shift occurring from the summit of Kings Hill during the Iron Age, to the lower ground of Queens Street and Castle Street, during the medieval period, possibly related to an increase of stone quarrying.

14.0 Discussion of the Lakeview Quarry 2020 Excavation Results

14.1 Summary of the 2020 Archaeological Excavations at Lakeview Quarry

14.1.1 The 2020 archaeological excavations at the former Lakeview Quarry, Keinton Mandeville provided an opportunity to substantiate the extent of prehistoric occupation and subsequent Romano-British activity within West Field. Activity from these periods had been clearly indicated by the 2009 evaluation trenches, which crossed the full extent of the field, supplemented by the results from the watching briefs that monitored the excavation of the three small ecological ponds along the southern edge of the field in 2017, complimented by the excavation of Romano-British stone barn Structure 1.

14.1.2 Fieldwork to date has exposed the archaeological horizon of approximately 10% of West Field, which has been reduced to c.20.4ha by quarrying. The south-eastern corner of West Field became the focus of recording due to its close proximity to the former quarry edge, and subsequent housing development, as well as the unfortunate lack of funding to carry out the excavation of the 2009 evaluation trenches. The HAC 2017 and 2020 archaeological excavations covered approximately 708m² and 814m² respectively, amounting to a combined area of 1.52ha, constituting around 7.5% of the total field size.

14.1.3 The earliest finds from the 2020 excavations were the scatters of Neolithic flint, which were present in ample quantities, along with the pit containing the Grooved Ware vessel sherds. A significant collection of prehistoric pottery has been assembled, which appears to date primarily to the middle Iron Age, although the presence of post Deverel-Rimbury ware sherds has established that archaeological activity during the LBA-EIA period was ongoing at the site, although evidence for settled activity for those periods has not yet been established.

14.1.4 Archaeological excavation has demonstrated that the IA settlement was substantial and extant for a broad time period as it occupied two distinct archaeological horizons. Although ploughing had truncated some of the remains of the settlement (especially further upslope above 49.50mAOD where the archaeological horizon lay only 0.25m below ground level) the features and deposits associated with the IA settlement had on the whole survived in a remarkably undisturbed state of preservation. The archaeological fieldwork within West Field indicates that this part of King's Hill was utilised for agriculture during the Romano-British period, and was not resettled thereafter. The excavation results further indicate that Romano-British features and material occur in isolated pockets across the majority of West Field, minimising the impact upon the earlier archaeological phases. The archaeological evidence currently signifies that the RB agricultural stone buildings and walls were erected in an east-west linear arrangement along the 48mOD contour, again reducing disturbance to the IA archaeology.

14.1.5 The remainder of the IA settlement, which originally extended northwards onto the summit of King's Hill, has apparently been removed by 'Ham Hill Quarry' (PRN 14200), with the possible exception of small pockets of virgin ground around the former quarry perimeter, increasing the archaeological value of the prehistoric remains within West Field itself.

14.2 Discussion of the Neolithic & Bronze Age Periods

14.2.1 Human activity during the later Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods across the south-west of Britain is well-represented by the presence of significant assemblages of archaeological material, including lithic scatters, human and faunal remains, ceramics, relict settlement features and monuments. One of the factors affecting the exchange of resources and materials throughout the region during the prehistoric was defined by the major topographic divide between the Wessex chalklands and the more diverse landscapes of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall (Webster, 2007, 75).

14.2.2 While palaeoenvironmental evidence has demonstrated that the chalk uplands of Wessex were intensively exploited by c.3000BCE, associated with scrub, grasslands and predominantly pastoral activity; the open-country upland landscape further to the west, specifically Bodmin Moor, Dartmoor and Exmoor, appeared to be the result of climate change, aided, perhaps, by limited

human agency (Webster, 2007, 73). Additional data achieved from environmental research argues that *'much of the Early Neolithic landscape of southern Britain was probably a mosaic of relatively small clearances, abandoned clearings…and perhaps even primary woodland'* (Robinson , 2002, 68; cited in Webster, 2007, 73).

14.2.3 Anthropogenic environmental management occurred in the south-west during the later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age transition, indicated by increased woodland clearance determined by a significant change in subsistence economy based on cereal cultivation (Robinson, 2002, 55; cited in Webster, 2007, 73). In this regard, the site at Keinton Mandeville lies within an environmentally liminal zone, an ecotone, between the surrounding marshes of the Somerset Levels and chalk uplands nearby to the west (see Figure 126 below). Situated on the north-west flank of the Yeovil Scarplands (Natural England, 2014), the site is located at the south-eastern extent of the Polden Ridge, that runs north-west to the Severn Estuary between modern Bridgwater and Highbridge. Exploitation of the wetland environments to the north and south of the Poldens during the Neolithic period has been well documented, most notably during excavations of the Sweet Track at Shapwick (e.g. Coles and Coles, 1986). More recent excavations have illustrated similar activity at the north-western extent of the Poldens at and around the River Parrett estuary (e.g. Hollinrake and Law, 2016).

14.2.4 Keinton Mandeville's topographic location places it within an area that would have been ideally situated to provide access to a broad range of dry and wetland subsistence resources, at a confluence of natural long-distance trade and communication corridors between the heartlands of central southern Britain and the coastal zones of both Dorset and north-west Somerset. It is in this particular context that, whist the discovery of rare Neolithic Grooved Ware pottery sherds at the Lakeview site was somewhat unexpected, similar Clacton-style Grooved Ware sherds have also been unearthed within c.10km of Keinton Mandeville at Cadbury Castle, providing further evidence that there was inter-regional trade and communication occurring between the region and the broader British Isles.

14.2.5 It is currently not possible to establish permanent occupation at the Lakeview site during the Neolithic. The relatively large flint assemblage indicates that activity, whether transitional or sedentary, occurred over an extensive time period, possibly from as early as the later Mesolithic (see Figure 126 below). As no other Neolithic features aside from the Grooved Ware pottery have been recorded as yet on the site, it is prudent to assume for the time being that the human presence at the site was transitory during the NL to BA periods.

14.2.6 No identifiable Middle Bronze Age material has of yet been identified during the archaeological projects (outlined in Chapter 8). Contemporary archaeological research has made the case that certain factors determined a shift in the social structure during the Early to Middle Bronze Ages, resulting in the abandonment of previously significant areas of occupation during the later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age transition. Climactic deterioration was one of the most profound changes during this time, which potentially triggered a process of depopulation in central Somerset (Bell and Walker, 2005). Archaeological recording within the Somerset Levels has recorded that flooding becoming more common during the LNL-EBA transition, inundating and saturating the Brue and Cary flood plains surrounding the north, east and south of Keinton Mandeville. Bond (2006, p.353-370) states that at this time, these areas would have been difficult to access.
'*An empty landscape would emerge, wet and uninviting, perhaps perceived as totally taken over by the unseen supernatural agents. The landscape would become un-socialised, seen as marginal to settlement'*.

14.2.7 As the process of climactic deterioration continued throughout the Middle Bronze Age, a change in the settlement pattern within the Keinton Mandeville environs can be observed. Whilst small agricultural settlement continued, to a degree, on lower-lying sites in the area, at Queen Camel for example (Newton, 2018), settlement activity appears to be predominantly focussed upon hilltop locations such as South Cadbury and Ham Hill (Webster, 2007, 118). Further afield, other evidence for possible settlements in Somerset comes from finds of pottery and flint rather than

structures, for example at Cannard's Grave and several of the small sand "islands" on the northern edge of the Poldens. Additionally, finds recovered from Southay, Poundisford Park, Odcombe (near Ilchester) and Dimmer suggest these sites were all probably part of Bronze Age settlements, although no evidence for the buildings has been found. In contrast, the coastal site of Brean Down remains the only Bronze Age settlement in Somerset to have been subjected to large-scale excavation. Four phases of Bronze Age occupation were recorded here; two of which produced evidence of buildings, the earliest of which has been dated to the Early Bronze Age (Webster, 2007, 118).

14.2.8 The aforementioned factors place the evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeological activity at the Lakeview site within a regional context of increasingly intensified Neolithic activity, followed by a shift of human settlement and trade patterns in response to deteriorating climactic conditions. Specialist analysis of the pottery and flint assemblages would be useful to elaborate upon the perceived lack of BA material on the site as of the time of writing. A cursory examination of a small sample of the prehistoric pottery sent to Dr. Alistair Barclay has already identified the presence of Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age ceramics recovered from the backfills of large grain storage pit [26113], indicating that it is likely that material culture representative of the BA period within the artefactual assemblages that has not yet be identified (Barclay, A, 9th August 2021, *pers comm.*).

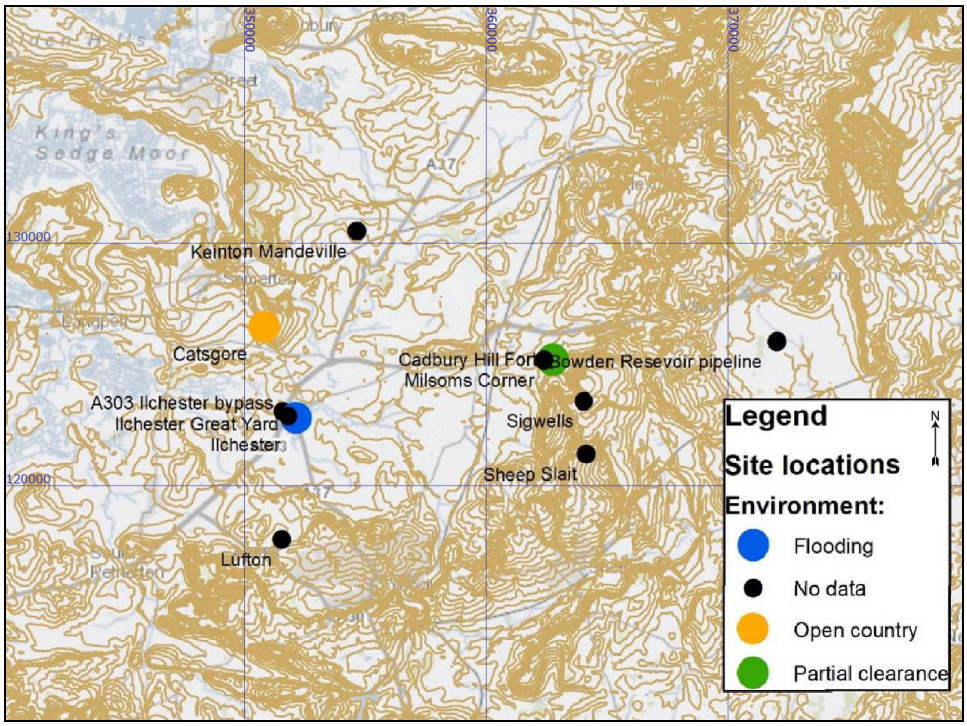


Figure 126.
Relief map of the Yeovil Scarplands (Hingston, 2021, 49).

Illustrates recorded Neolithic environmental data within the Keinton Mandeville environs.

10km National Grid.

14.3 Discussion of the Iron Age Settlement

14.3.1 Keinton Mandeville is situated within a regional landscape rich in Iron Age archaeological sites. The site probably lay near the south-eastern limits of the Dobunni tribe (Cunliffe, 1991) although the northern edge of the Durotriges territory, which extended southwards to the Dorset coast, lay nearby, rendering precision ultimately impossible, especially when one considers that tribal allegiances could have shifted to some extent over time (Cunliffe, 1975, p.101). The high density of Iron Age archaeological sites within the Keinton Mandeville environs indicates that the region was dynamic, with a relatively high population during the period.

14.3.2 Keinton Mandeville occupies an area of locally higher ground which is surrounded in all directions by several IA hillforts of various sizes within a ten mile radius. An economic and political affiliation between the Lakeview IA settlement and Cadbury Castle hillfort (South Cadbury – PRN 55105) is highly likely, the prominent multivallete hillfort is visible from the site and lies a mere 6 miles south-south-east. Ham Hill (Stoke sub-Hamdon – PRN 55103) is also visible from the site,

which lies 9.5 miles to the south-west, and is regarded as the largest hillfort in Britain (Brittain, M et al, 2014). Dundon Hillfort (Compton Dundon – PRN 53760) is accessible from the site via the Polden Hills, and lies just under 4 miles to the west. The univallate Small Down Knoll (Evercreech – PRN 23483), which is itself in close proximity to the hillfort at Fox Covert near Lamyatt Beacon (Milton Clevedon - PRN 23860), both lie around 9 miles to the NE of the site. Further to the east lies Kenwalch's Castle (Penselwood – PRN 23717) upon the modern Somerset and Wiltshire border. The univallate hillfort of King's Hill (Wells – PRN 24336), along with the bivallate Maesbury Castle (Croscombe – PRN 23449) are situated c.10miles to the north along the southern slopes of the Mendip Hills region.

14.3.3 Other significant Iron Age sites within a 10 mile radius of the site include the nearby late IA Ilchester oppidum (PRN 53089), and associated archaeological sites around the town, which extend more or less continuously from the Bronze Age onwards (Richardson, 2002). The IA Glastonbury Lake Village (PRN 23637) within the Somerset Levels would probably have been most conveniently accessed from Keinton Mandeville via the River Brue which runs westwards around a mile to the north-east. Occupation of the Glastonbury Lake Village has been dated between 250 – 50BCE when the material culture was reassessed in the mid-1990's (Brunning, 2013. p.176).

14.3.4 A nearby Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement which was broadly comparable to the Lakeview site, was excavated in 2014 at Lower Easton Farm, Pylle (PRN 32611), 6 miles to the north-east of Keinton Mandeville. The excavation recorded a "…*small farmstead probably dating to the Middle Iron Age and a much more extensive field system and trackway dating to the middle–late Romano-British period"* (Newton. 2018a). A more substantial mid to late Iron Age settlement was excavated at Cannards Grave, Shepton Mallet, to the south of the Roman town, 8.5 miles north-east of Keinton Mandeville, which included four roundhouses between 10m-14m diameter (PRN 44779). A further Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement has also been recorded around 6 miles due west of the site at Pitcombe near Castle Cary (PRN 28245).

14.3.5 The 2020 excavation results signify that the Iron Age settlement was a rural settlement with occasional instances of industrial processes. The site probably covered a fairly extensive area, and was inhabited by multiple family groups over several centuries, as the settlement occupied two distinct archaeological horizons. It is fortuitous that stratification of the IA settlement has been preserved, providing the opportunity to currently subdivide the site chronology simply into the 'earlier' and 'later' IA phases, with the features from 'earlier IA' site Phase 1d sealed by 'later IA' palaeosol #02. Early IA site activity has been established on a preliminary basis by the identification of the post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery sherds from large storage pit [26113], which can hopefully be corroborated with scientific dating.

14.3.6 The date of the transition from the earlier IA Phase 1d settlement, to later the IA site Phases 1e and 1f are likely to be difficult to firmly establish without a broad and extensive series of radiocarbon dates. It is hoped that a basic framework will be established by a combination of scientific dating and relative dates derived from specialist analysis of the IA and RB pottery collections to refine the site phases and dates.

14.3.7 There is a distinct possibility that the IA settlement might have continued into the latest phase of the Iron Age, even into the 1st century CE, as the later IA Phase 1e and 1f features and artefactual material were in abundance, and shared an archaeological horizon with the Romano-British finds and features.

14.3.8 It is logical that the settlement discontinued at the western flank of King's Hill, as the hillslope was too steep at this location for habitation. This view was reinforced by the 2017 watching brief results from ecological Pond D (arch. Area 23) which recorded no archaeological features and fewer finds at the south-west corner of West Field. The 2020 excavation results indicated that the IA settlement features and artefacts decreased in frequency below the 48mOD contour, along the beak of slope of the southern side of King's Hill. The siting of the RB buildings

along this contour, even though the builders had the inconvenience of having to mitigate a hillslope, combined with the minimal encroachment of RB features within the IA settlement, created an impression that knowledge of the former IA settlement might have been possessed during the RB period.

14.3.9 It is clear from the excavation results that the IA settlement continued northwards towards the locally higher ground of King's Hill above the 50m contour, implying that the Lakeview IA settlement could have covered a fairly extensive area. The northern extent of the settlement is unlikely to be recordable due to its removal by 'Ham Quarry' during the twentieth century. The historic maps (Figs.13 & 14) do however illustrate that portions of the IA settlement might have remained undisturbed around the quarry perimeter, and it is not clear from the historic maps or historic environment records whether the fields and orchards between the former Ham Quarry and High Street have been significantly disturbed. Therefore archaeological remains might be preserved in this area.

14.3.10 The 2017 and 2020 archaeological excavations, which have been concentrated upon 48m contour, with a c.10m x 80m N-S aligned corridor, have therefore only investigated the liminal southern edge of the settlement.

14.3.11 The presence of the middening area at the south end of Area 27, along with the two adjacent inhumations underpins the notion that the southern edge of the settlement was excavated at that location. Two further burials were recorded more or less due west of the Area 27 inhumations within evaluation Trench 13, indicating the potential that there might be a cluster of several such features at this part of the site around NGR 354540 / 130390.

14.3.12 A total of six IA structures have been proposed by either eaves drip gullies or posthole configurations. The projected diameter of c.10m for the two principal eaves drip gullies for Structures 4 and 5 accord well with the MIA gullies recorded at Pylle (Newton, 2018), and a couple of the roundhouses recorded at the middle Iron Age sites at Cannards Grave, Shepton Mallet (Gathercole, 2003).

14.3.13 No ecofacts have been collected at the time of writing as the palaeoenvironmental samples are currently awaiting processing. It is hoped that biological material will be present to determine some of the characteristics of the agrarian economy of the settlement.

14.4 Discussion of the Roman-British Period

14.4.1 South Somerset is an area which has a high density of Romano-British occupation. "*New discoveries continue to add to the extensive corpus of villa sites across the [south west] region, which has the highest density of identified sites in Roman Britain*" (Webster, 2007). The archaeological fieldwork at Lakeview Quarry has determined that the two RB buildings excavated so far on the site, along with their associated fragmentary wall remains, are the remains of agricultural buildings. These structures are perceived to provide a focal point for a rural farming settlement which was established at Keinton Mandeville during the Romano-British period.

14.4.2 The map of the RB farming settlements identified in the South West of England (Figure 127) plots a high density of farming settlements across the Dorset, Somerset, Gloucestershire corridor. The instances of such settlements around the Keinton Mandeville environs are however relatively sparse compared to other regions in these counties, even though several Roman sites are recorded within a few miles of the site.

14.4.3 The RB farming settlements map points out that RB farming settlements tend to have an accompanying villa site in close proximity, lending some credence to the historic record that an RB villa was sited on the north side of Chistles Lane (PRN 54073), only 300m north-west of the archaeological excavations, occupying the base of the eastern slope of King's Hill. It stands to reason that the Chistles Lane villa was likely served by the Lakeview agricultural buildings and fields due to the near adjacent proximity of the sites. The presence of the Chistles Lane villa itself

shall unfortunately remain unconfirmed due to the erection of the modern housing estate over the site. The discovery of the Lakeview RB buildings lends credence to the probability that the historic reports are accurate. The topynomic evidence that *Chistle* is derived from the Old English *ceosel* or *cisel*, meaning "gravel" or "shingle' (Gelling, M. and Cole, A, 2000), may have been applied as a reference to fragments of building material associated with the proposed villa site, such as *tesserae* also reinforces the argument.

14.4.4 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map also plots the site of a Roman villa within the adjacent parish of Kingweston (PRN 54125) approximately 1.5km north-west of Lakeview Quarry, for which no subsequent archaeological evidence has been unearthed, and the site remains unsubstantiated. Assuming these two historic villa records are accurate, it is course feasible that these could have been reports of agricultural Roman buildings, such as those excavated at Lakeview, rather than 'villas' per se.

14.4.5 Keinton Mandeville lay only one mile west of the Fosse Way, which would have provided efficient access to the principle regional Roman towns of Ilchester (*Lindinis* - PRN 53116) 5 miles to the south, and Shepton Mallet (PRN 25160) 10 miles to the north, en route to Bath (*Aquae Sulis* – PRN 66571). Romano-British villas recorded within a few miles of the site include Butleigh (PRN 28497), Hurcot (PRN 54534), Littleton (PRN 53764), Lytes Cary (PRN 53686), East Pennard (PRN 15053) and Ditcheat (PRN 23379, 23386).

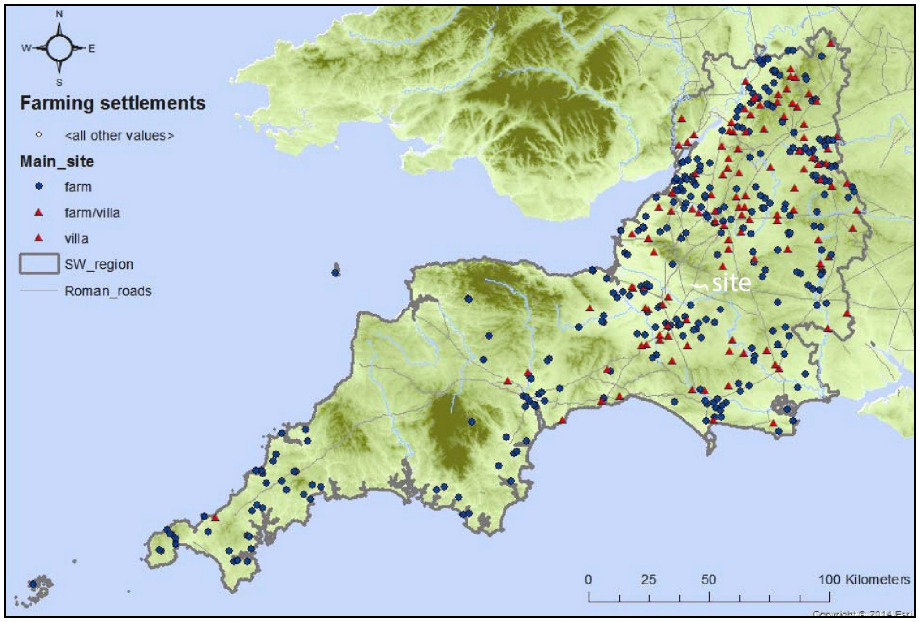


Figure 127.

Map of the RB farming settlements identified in the South West of England.

Site marked by white arrow.

(Smith, 2014).

14.4.6 The 2017 .excavations focused upon recording RB barn Structure 1 within Area 24, which had been accidently exposed during grading down in advance of a desired quarry expansion which did not come to fruition. The removal of the topsoil exposed the building along with a series of small ruined wall fragments surrounding a stoned-up area, which was broadly interpreted as a 'courtyard' to the south of the building. These features were mapped and subject to only basic archaeological recording in 2017 as they lay outside of the programme of works. The presence of the courtyard to the south of barn Structure 1 was confirmed by the recording of metalled surface 2811 / 2812 in 2020. The notion that this part of the site formed a focal point of a Romano-British farm settlement was supplemented by the discovery of a second Romano-British agricultural building, which by extension suggested a western edge to the metalled courtyard, as the metalled deposit was not encountered within 2017 watching brief Areas 20 – 23. No boundary walls were extant connecting the buildings or encircling the compound negating the likelihood that there is a domicile residence connected with the outbuildings in a style such as the Pitney Villa compound (PRN 54407). Further wall masonry has been recorded immediately west of Structure 2.

14.4.7 Although the remains of Romano-British stone Structures 1 and 2 were not identical, they shared fundamental attributes. Firstly, both buildings were constructed with the long axis aligned laid–out on the same NNE-SSW orientation (N9°E). The significance of this orientation is that it exhibits continuity with the former IA settlement which has been demonstrated to have been set out on the same grid. The two ditches recorded on the site also conformed to this arrangement, appearing to represent remnants of a coaxial field system which persisted from the later prehistoric into the Romano-British period. The stratigraphic profile and pottery from earlier boundary ditch [24121] dated the feature to the later Iron Age, whereas questions surround whether the origins of recut boundary ditch [2654] / [2650] lay in the later Iron Age or Romano-British period due to the mixed pottery from both eras within their fills. A Romano-British date for ditch [2654] is more probable considering the quantity of residual IA pottery which had been redeposited within most of the excavated RB contexts, including the Structure 2 wall foundations.

14.4.8 Standardised units appear to have been used regarding the design and placement of the Romano-British buildings, as the exposed Structure 2 dimensions were in accord with those from the main body of the western component of Structure 1 (F24101). The Structure 2 Lias rubble herringbone foundations were identical with those used for the eastern extension of Structure 1 (F24102). The Structure 2 Lias flagstone floor was significantly inferior to the materials and finish used for the F24101 interior floor, which were produced from the type of high-quality Blue Lias floor slabs for which the village of Keinton Mandeville became synonymous. The sourcing of such stone must have come from the subsurface Lias beds, indicating that quarrying the Blue Lias stone was likely ongoing in the vicinity during the Romano-British period. Roman quarrying in the region has been recorded at other locations such as at Ham Hill, which was probably associated with quarrying the Ham stone used throughout the region (PRN 55112).

14.4.9 Planning of the Roman farm compound was also evident by the placement of midden [2838], which was equidistant between the two structures, and the alignment of drain [2830], which was parallel to Structures 1 and 2. There were three culverted drains flowing southwards from the length of the south side of Structure 1. The presence of drain [2830] implies that a further Roman building might be extant to the north of excavation Area 28 around NGR 354572 / 130388. Unexposed culverted drains are also likely to drain southwards from the south side of Structure 2.

14.4.10 Isolated pit [26135] was initially difficult to interpret, as the cut for the feature was symmetrical, neatly cut, too shallow to be of practical use, and purposefully lined with an unusual, even layer of redeposited Lias clay. The presence of pedestal base SF24, combined with the precise east-west orientation of the pit and large quantities of large RB decorated pottery sherds alongside a rare RB glass shard, has led to a provisional interpretation of the feature as a Romano-British cremated burial pit, most likely Christian in view of its alignment.

14.4.11 Cremation was the standard form of funerary practice in Roman Britain between the 1st and 3rd centuries CE (Ward, 1990). The deceased were typically removed to a local crematorium (*ustrinum*) for incineration. The remains were then recovered and interred elsewhere, usually within a cemetery; however, rural villa estates were occasionally known to keep their own small-scale private burial sites (Hatton, 1999). The locations of Roman *ustrina* were highly regulated within the empire, specifically in relation to proximity to large settlements, and in parts of the empire fines were imposed to preclude their presence within half a mile of a city (Liversidge, 1976, 220).

14.4.12 Although no primary sources exist which explicitly mention such a practice in Roman Britain, the evidence from recorded British burials implies that it was extended into the province. Perhaps as a result of empire regulation, private cremation burials appear to have been relatively rare outside of deeply rural areas (Hatton, 1999), although such practices were recorded by Roman authors (Toynbee 1971).

14.4.13 It is plausible that if a Roman cremation took place near the site, it would have been dealt with in an *ustrinum* according to convention, with the remains subsequently deposited into a cremation urn (SF24), and interred within a shallow grave cut such as pit [26135]. In this scenario,

the relatively low quantity of charcoal and bone from the fills of pit [26135] are not relevant to the interpretation, as the burning would have occurred elsewhere under ideal circumstances for full combustion of both tissue and skeleton (Weeks, 2005).

14.4.14 Isolated Roman burials (cremated or otherwise) are rare, and generally considered to be indicative of a neighbouring area of concentrated burial (Hatton, 1999). Despite the lack of other RB burials within the 2020 excavation, the AC Archaeology 2009 evaluation did identify four separate cremations and inhumations within evaluation Trenches 4 and 13, which lay within 30m-50m of pit [26135]. This presents evidence that the remains of an RB cemetery might be present to the west of the 2020 excavations. The dispersed low concentration of the burials within West Filed suggests that the burial ground most probably belonged to a private villa, as the common cemeteries tended to tightly pack graves into as small an area as possible (Hatton, 1999).

14.4.15 The size and intricacy of pit [26135] is unusual for a single cremation burial. However, the severe truncation of pottery vessel SF24 also attests to the possibility that other cremated remains might have been obliterated by centuries of ploughing.

15.0 Archive and Finds

The complete archive, including field notes, field plans, recording and levels forms and correspondence will be deposited with the South West Heritage Trust under the Accession Number: TTNCM 8 / 2016.

16.0 Acknowledgements

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Arthur Hollinrake

16th December 2021
Hollinrake Archaeology Cooperative

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