



Land adjacent to Steart Village, Steart Point,
Somerset

Fieldwalking Survey & Evaluation Report





Land adjacent to Steart Village, Steart Point, Somerset, TA5 2PX

Fieldwalking Survey & Evaluation Report

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Report Cover: Looking east along a fieldwalking run in Plot 26.

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by May Gurney Ltd to carry out an archaeological fieldwalking survey of land proposed for a habitat creation scheme at Steart Point peninsula, near Bridgwater, Somerset (centred on OS NGR 327000 145000). The archaeological works were being carried out as part of a package of measures in order to mitigate anticipated off-site impacts associated with construction work at Bristol Port, and specifically loss of floodplain/ wildlife habitat. At Steart Point, the works comprises the construction of an artificial floodplain creek system, extending over a footprint measuring approximately 26ha. The fieldwork was undertaken between 21st – 25th November 2011.

Aside from a finds assemblage made up predominantly of post-medieval and modern material (mostly ceramic building material but also clay pipe) there was only a small assemblage of significant finds. This includes two undiagnostic prehistoric (9500 – 700 BC) worked flint pieces recorded from the south-west of the Site and three sherds of Romano-British (AD 43 – 410) pottery (in two locations c. 46m apart) from the middle of the Site. Both point to human activity of these dates on the peninsula, in both cases the material being brought to the Site, though the nature and extent of the activities undertaken are hard to interpret at this stage, with such a small and dispersed assemblage.

Romano-British material has been recorded to the immediate west and south of the Site. Combwich to the south is a known Roman settlement and port, with a ferry crossing over the River Parrett also located here. The coastal and estuarine areas were important for salt and pottery production following the widespread Roman land reclamation and drainage of the Somerset Levels for grazing from the 1st century AD. The scant evidence of Roman activity on the Site might be associated with any of these activities.

The small assemblage of 11th - 13th century pottery from the Site, alongside the number of 'moated' sites recorded in the area from LiDAR and aerial photographic evidence, and archaeological evaluation evidence, fits well with wider patterns of extensive medieval recolonisation on the Somerset Levels for sheep and cattle grazing. The relative concentration of unabraded medieval pottery from the east of the Site (Plot 3) could possibly be derived from sub-surface features, perhaps from medieval settlement, or other activity, associated with an (undated) infilled palaeochannel to the immediate north of the concentration.

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Acknowledgements

This programme of fieldwalking survey and evaluation fieldwork was commissioned by May Gurney Ltd and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Matt Phillips for his help during the fieldwork, and to BACTEC for providing advice and support regarding ordnance. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Richard Brunning (Levels and Moors Senior Archaeologist - Somerset County Council). The fieldwalking was undertaken by Chris Ellis, Ben Cullen, Tom Burt and Michael Fleming.

This report was compiled by Chris Ellis, with contributions from Lorraine Mepham (Finds) and Richard Milwain (GIS analyses). The illustration was prepared by Linda Coleman. The fieldwork and post-excavation were managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.

Fieldwalking Survey & Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (the **Contractor**) were commissioned by May Gurney Ltd (the **Client**) to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land proposed for a habitat creation scheme at Steart Point peninsula, near Bridgwater, Somerset (the **Site** - centred on OS NGR 327000 145000; **Figure 1**). The current fieldwork was undertaken between 21st – 25th November 2011, and comprised the fieldwalking of Area D of the scheme as well as two evaluation trenches to the immediate north of the Site.

1.1.2 The archaeological works were carried out as part of a package of measures in order to mitigate anticipated off-site impacts associated with construction work at Bristol Port, and specifically loss of floodplain/ wildlife habitat. At Steart Point, the mitigation measures will comprise construction of an artificial floodplain creek system, extending over a footprint measuring approximately 26ha.

1.1.3 An earlier desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2008) of the Site and extended heritage assessment of the wider area (Wessex Archaeology 2009) have set out the historical background to the Steart Peninsular, the summary of which is detailed below. A further evaluation was undertaken of two proposed pond areas (Wessex Archaeology 2010), one of which comprises most of the southern pond (Pond 2) of the two originally proposed ponds in the south-western part of the current scheme.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site is situated within the Central Somerset Levels, in an area of low lying (c. 4.50 – 8m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)) flat, artificially drained land, generally used as pasture, with only a few fields being ploughed for arable. Aside from the northern coastal area containing Steart and Wall Common and an area in the mid-south river margins (lying at 6-8m aOD) most of the peninsula lies at 5.40 – 5.80m (aOD) – (Wessex Archaeology 2009, figure 2).

1.2.2 The solid geology of the area around Steart consists of Triassic mudstones with Rhaetic and Dolomitic conglomerate. To the west, around Stolford, the solid geology is Lower Lias (Geological Survey 1957). For the majority of the Site, the solid geology is overlain by alluvial deposits, with the area around Wall Common overlain by blown sand (Institute of Geological Sciences 1977). The coast of the peninsula consists of shingle storm beaches, dune sands and salt marsh.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 The geomorphological evolution of the Severn Estuary, at the mouth of which Steart Peninsula is located has, over many millennia, provided a dynamic environment within which humans have lived.

- 1.3.2 The Severn Levels, within which the Steart Peninsula is situated, are a man-made landscape and the result of sustained drainage and sea defence that began in some areas as early as the Romano-British period (AD 43 – 410). In order to understand the archaeological potential of the Site it is necessary to understand the development of the landscape.
- 1.3.3 During the Pleistocene epoch for the 500,000 years prior to the beginning of the Holocene epoch (12,000 BP) the climate cycled through relatively frequent glacial (cold) and interglacial (warm) periods. The variance in climatic temperature was accompanied by fluctuating sea levels as water was periodically taken up and then released by the ice sheets. Evidence from hydrographic, geophysical and borehole surveys from Gloucester to the central Bristol Channel indicates that within the Severn Levels the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic landscape would have been dominated by a main river valley cut into bedrock geology with a network of subsidiary valleys feeding into it from the English and Welsh sides in the location of the present estuary (Brunning 2008, 44).
- 1.3.4 This very early landscape is now buried beneath deep Holocene marine sediments which make up the Severn Levels. The start of the Holocene is marked by the onset of a warm interglacial period starting at around 12,500BP. This warming phase was accompanied initially by rapidly rising sea-levels. The remains of a submerged Mesolithic forest just off the coast at Hinkley illustrate the huge change in the environment from the wooded landscape which dominated the landscape 10,000 years ago.
- 1.3.5 Within the intertidal zone the importance of the sea as a resource is evident with the remains of fish weirs and small vessels of medieval and later date giving clues as to how the people who lived on this coastline used the sea. On the peninsula itself surviving field boundaries, banks, ditches, lanes and settlements are the product of hundreds of years of reclamation and land improvement. Couple this with physical ground conditions which favour the survival of organic and environmental remains, and the significance of the heritage resource at a location such as the Steart Peninsula is clear.
- 1.3.6 The wider setting of the Steart Peninsula, particularly Bridgwater Bay and the River Parrett, has been the subject of a number of heritage research projects, from which a great deal has been learnt about the nature and extent of the heritage resource both in the intertidal and terrestrial environments. The peninsula itself has also been the focus of some detailed desk-based research projects as part of the Environment Agency's work to assess the suitability of the peninsula for habitat creation use.
- 1.3.7 Overall - the modern landscape in which the Site is situated is largely a landscape of the medieval and post-medieval periods, with its origins in post-Roman flooding episodes. Any Roman or prehistoric remains are likely to survive buried beneath alluvial deposits formed at the time of this flooding. Because of this, it is not possible to assess the likelihood of sub-surface prehistoric or Roman remains surviving across the Site, with the exception of the higher ground, where there is no depth of stratigraphy and areas of the intertidal zone, where such deposits may be exposed by tidal action. In the light of this, the possibility of encountering significant archaeological deposits of prehistoric or Roman date, particularly during intrusive groundworks cannot be discounted.
- 1.3.8 The results of this recent work (Wessex Archaeology 2008, 2009) have served to define the known heritage resource, but also to highlight the potential that exists for the presence and survival of further buried archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains. The more salient information is reiterated below.

Former field boundaries

- 1.3.9 Analysis of the digital elevation data model, slope maps and hillshade plots has allowed the digitisation of numerous linear features likely to be the remains of former field boundaries (Wessex Archaeology 2009). Comparison with the historic mapping confirmed that a number of the Site field boundaries do occur on 18th and 19th century maps. It is clear from that much of the farmland was originally considerably more subdivided than is the case today.
- 1.3.10 To the east of Steart Drove, there are occasional parcels of smaller fields, but for the most part the fields appear to comprise fairly regular rectangular co-axial fields, aligned roughly north west to south east, perpendicular to the road. This pattern only changes near the point itself, where a number of the fields take their alignment off a second road.
- 1.3.11 In his work on the Severn Estuary Levels, Rippon suggested that differences in the subdivision of the landscape may well reflect the development of the landscape (Rippon, 1996, 50 - 52). He suggested that areas of small irregular fields with sinuous boundaries may represent early enclosures of the landscape, with more regular fields representing later enclosure. The enclosure of the back fen is likely to have been a later phase of enclosure.

'Moated' sites, earthworks and trackways

- 1.3.12 In addition to the numerous field boundaries there are a series of roughly rectangular platforms or 'moated' sites set within the enclosed fields. These are generally defined by slightly deeper ditches than the drainage ditches of the surrounding fields. In addition to this there is evidence for a number of other earthworks in the landscape, comprising both upstanding earthworks and negative features. There are a number of irregular negative features likely to be ponds created for watering livestock. Many of the 'moated' sites and earthworks are linked by trackways or now defunct tracks.
- 1.3.13 In total some 14 'moated' platforms were identified from the LiDAR data (Wessex Archaeology 2009, Appendix I). Most of these sites comprise roughly rectangular platforms either wholly or partially surrounded by ditches or 'moats'. Most are situated on low lying ground within the levels, although (2028) comprises two possible platforms on the higher ground to the east of Chalcott Farm. Others appear to be closely linked to areas of existing settlement, whilst the remainder are more likely to represent abandoned cottages, houses or farms. Their distribution (**Figure 1**) suggests that the levels within the area were once divided into a network of smaller farms linked by trackways and droveways, and that many of these later became incorporated into the current farm-holdings.
- 1.3.14 There are four 'moated' sites to the east of Steart Drove, within the Site. All four of the 'moated' sites lie just to the south-east of Steart Drove, to which they are linked by short trackways. The only previously known earthwork shown in this figure is a windmill mound (1027) within 2035. Excavations on the site revealed medieval pottery, whilst a windmill is recorded on the site as late as 1614. It is not clear how this windmill is likely to relate to the nearby 'moated' sites, but it seems to have been one of two mills serving the manor of Stockland Bristol. It was recorded as being flooded by the sea in 1655.

- 1.3.15 An evaluation of two proposed pond areas was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2010 (Wessex Archaeology 2010), one of which comprised part of the present Pond 2 area. No archaeological features of significance were identified. Aside from clearly modern finds the only find of note was from the ploughsoil outside the current area (Area D of the scheme); a single sherd of central Gaulish Roman samian ware dating to the second half of the 2nd century AD.
- 1.3.16 A further evaluation by Wessex Archaeology (2011b) comprised the investigation of a complex of earthworks to the immediate west of the Site, recorded on the Somerset Historic Environment Record as a *Deserted Farm, North-East of Woolstone Farm* (HER no 34653) and centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) 324539 144852. The trenches were positioned to investigate anomalies identified by an earlier geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2011a) and a number of bank and ditch earthworks visible as extant features on the ground and also in LiDAR imagery of the site. These features were thought likely to represent the remains of a deserted farmstead positioned within a ditched enclosure.
- 1.3.17 The excavated evidence appears to suggest two phases of building within the main interior platform within a roughly square c. 55m ditched enclosure. Evidence for buildings in the form of walling and a section of robbed out wall were recorded from the internal platform. Pottery associated with the earliest investigated phase of the building dates its use to the 13th century with pottery evidence associated with the later building phase dating it to the 17th -18th centuries

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

- 2.1.1 The original scope of works under consideration comprised fieldwalking across the proposed creek system footprint; to ensure approximately 10% by surface area was examined in detail. The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2011c) for this project was approved in advance, and set out the proposed archaeological works, a summary of the more salient points of which are below. A variation to the original scope of works included the fieldwalking of three pond areas (Ponds 1-3) and recording of two evaluation trenches to the north of the Site (**Figure 1**).

2.2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The aim of the project was to determine the archaeological potential and significance of the area to be impacted upon by the proposed development.
- 2.2.2 To achieve the project aim as outlined, the following generic objectives were defined:
- *To determine the general nature of the remains present.*
 - *To determine the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual evidence.*
 - *To determine the approximate extent of the remains.*
 - *To determine the nature of activity or activities that the remains represent.*
 - *To determine the degree of complexity of the material present.*
 - *To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present*

2.3 Fieldwalking

- 2.3.1 The fieldwalking programme comprised the survey of approximately 2.6ha of land. In order to facilitate the fieldwalking programme, and specifically artefact visibility, fieldwalking runs were pre-ploughed across the surface of the proposed creek, a minimum of 14 days in advance of fieldwalking.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Site Survey

- 3.1.1 Due to the sinuous nature of the proposed creek system, all survey work was carried out using hand-held GPS equipment, including logging the location of all artefacts recovered. Fieldwalking runs were determined by the location and alignment of the ploughing carried out in advance.

3.2 Fieldwalking

- 3.2.1 As noted above, fieldwalking runs followed the alignment of pre-ploughed runs, which themselves were positioned to reflect the curving sinuous nature of the proposed creek system as well as avoiding damage to current ridge and furrow, field boundaries and drainage ditches. Fieldwalking runs comprised line-walking, scanning the ground surface up to 2m either side of the centreline being walked. Where practicable, fieldwalking was carried out under broadly comparable conditions of lighting and weather, and by personnel of broadly similar experience and/or ability.

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 With the exception of material of obviously modern date (i.e. 20th or 21st century) and metalwork clearly not of archaeological origin/interest (e.g. ordnance of any type), all humanly-modified material, whether manufactured, fashioned or indirectly affected, was collected and retained, at least until the assessment stage. Field staff did not employ criteria for the selective discard and/or non-collection of archaeological artefacts. All finds were bagged at the point of discovery within finds bags that were marked with a unique number (corresponding to the GPS data-logger record numbers – see below).
- 3.3.2 Although in principle it was the intention to record each find separately, in practice if multiple finds – of the same material category – were discovered at the same location, these were gathered, bagged and recorded as one findspot. However, material categories were not knowingly mixed from the same findspot location.

3.4 Recording

General

- 3.4.1 Wessex Archaeology allocated a unique site code (**77221**) for all aspects of the project archive. This site code is clearly marked on all records, finds etc. All recording utilised appropriate *pro forma* record sheets, including a full graphic and photographic archive. The ploughed fieldwalking runs were individually recorded for each 'Field', with the width, depth and soil descriptions being recorded as well as general weather conditions, the individual field-walker (to check possible biases) and the general ground conditions.
- 3.4.2 The photographic record comprised digital photographs to demonstrate work in progress, general conditions and the surrounding landscape/ terrain. Consideration was given to obtaining images that will serve to illustrate any report produced concerning the site.

Fieldwalking

- 3.4.3 The location of individual finds (or collections of the same material category at the same location) was recorded on hand-held GPS data-loggers. This provided a unique ID for the location data, which was transferred onto the finds bag as an identifier. At the same time, the field-walker also recorded the material category for the find(s) from a pre-populated pick list on the data-logger.
- 3.4.4 The beginning and ends of all fieldwalking runs were recorded using the GPS data-loggers and assigned unique numbers. Because of the need to avoid damage to extensive ridge and furrow drainage systems over the Site, field boundaries and drainage ditches, the ploughed runs were discontinuous, the start/finish of each segment of run being logged.
- 3.4.5 Where the channel area within the scheme was of sufficient width a number of parallel plough runs were made at c. 40m intervals within the 'channels' being investigated.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section includes all information on the natural deposits encountered and the fieldwalking run conditions. Aside from heavy rain encountered most of the first day (21/11/11) the weather was ideal, with cool to mild, dry conditions and even, relatively bright light, with the ground being relatively damp throughout. The ploughed runs had obviously been exposed a short while and had been affected by natural weathering generally (see *Report Cover*).
- 4.1.2 This weathering, particularly heavy rain, had washed all coarse components (very rare) and objects of archaeological interest to the surface making them highly visible, especially ceramic building material, slate and glass.

4.2 Site geology

- 4.2.1 For the majority of the Site, the solid geology is overlain by alluvial deposits, and this is reflected in the ploughsoil characteristics for the Site which lay directly below the turfline. These are composed of light to greyish-brown, 'blocky' silty clay, clay or clay loams, all with a slight bluish hue, containing very rare rounded and sub-rounded blue/grey, tabular (?) chert cobbles/pebbles (<0.15m; mostly <60mm) and rare angular/sub-angular fragments of a light bluish-grey stone (which may be non-local).

4.3 Evaluation trenches

- 4.3.1 The stratigraphic sequence and detailed descriptions of the results of both evaluation trenches (1, 2) are fully described in the trench summary tables in **Appendix 1**. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were recorded from the trenches. The stratigraphic sequence was consistent for each trench. A 0.22 – 0.27m thick ploughsoil (**101, 201**) of mid greyish-brown silty clay with sparse, sub-rounded stones (<60mm) overlaid a 0.30 – 0.46m thick, sterile natural alluvium (upper – **102, 202**) characterised by a mid-greyish brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded stone (<20mm). In the base of the trenches, to 1.20+m depth, was a (lower), sterile, light to mid-bluish grey natural alluvial clay (**103, 203**) containing sparse manganese flecks (<2mm).

4.4 Fieldwalking runs

- 4.4.1 A total of 91 runs were undertaken (some with multiple sub-divisions) and were generally 4 – 6m wide, with breaks, as mentioned before, where ridge and furrow, field boundaries, or drainage ditches were encountered. For ease of reference within this report each 'Plot' has been given a unique number (1- 48), as illustrated in **Figure 1**.
- 4.4.2 Most of the area of Pond 2 had already been evaluated but fieldwalking runs were displaced around it, to the widest extent of the proposed pond outline. The channel spur to the immediate north-east of Pond 2 had a further pond area (Pond 3) prepared for fieldwalking.
- 4.4.3 The ploughing was consistently 0.20 – 0.25m deep and in places had either weathered, been harrowed, or was in slightly less clayey material as the 'finish' was flatter and more fine grained. A c. 160m section of scheme channel was not ploughed in Plot 17.
- 4.4.4 Most finds from the fieldwalking survey were of post-medieval (1500 – 1800 AD) or modern date (1800 – present) and consisted almost exclusively of modern ceramic building material (brick, tile and ceramic drain fragments) as well as two fragments of clay pipe. However, a small assemblage of possible significance was recorded in Plots 36 and 41 (constituting Ponds 1 and 2 respectively), comprising two pieces of prehistoric worked flint debitage. Although not chronologically diagnostic the flint is of obviously non-local origin, having been brought to the Site, and therefore of some significance, reflecting prehistoric activity in the vicinity.
- 4.4.5 The pottery assemblage includes two sherds of Romano-British pottery, and 26 sherds (197g) of medieval pottery. Both Roman-British sherds were recorded on the boundary between Plots 20 and 21 (c. 46m apart) in an area of the peninsula that is relatively low-lying (5.60 – 5.80m aOD). This is the only Romano-British material known from the immediate vicinity, aside from a sherd from an evaluation area to the immediate west of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2011b).
- 4.4.6 The pottery assemblage included 26 sherds (197g) of medieval (11th – 13th century) pottery recovered from 21 separate locations. The quantification was mainly comprised of single sherds (15) though examples of two sherds (5) and three sherds (1) at single locations were also recorded. A relative concentration of 12 sherds (48%) of the medieval assemblage was recorded in the mid-east of Plot 3 (**Figure 1**). This concentration lies on slightly higher ground (c. 6.0 – 6.20m aOD), c. 700m to the north-east of a 'moated' site (2038) and also on the southern edge of an infilled, east-west aligned palaeochannel. Both were extrapolated from aerial photographs and LiDAR plots of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2009, figure 3).

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Finds recovered by fieldwalking were mainly ceramic, comprising sherds of pottery (44) and fragments of ceramic building material (45); also recovered were two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem; two prehistoric worked flint flakes (Plots 36, 41); and a small piece of stone, possibly worked (Plot 43), but of unknown date and function. The pottery and ceramic building material are discussed further below.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The small assemblage contains sherds of Romano-British (AD 43 – 410), medieval (AD 1066 – 1500) and post-medieval (1500 – 1800) date.

Romano-British

- 5.2.2 Three sherds from two locations (Plots 20, 21) are Romano-British, comprising two coarse greywares and one fine colour coated ware.

Medieval

- 5.2.3 Medieval wares probably represent the products of several different sources, although all probably within the north Devon/west Somerset area. Coarseware variants containing flint/chert and rock fragments are characteristic of the north Devon industries, made for example in Barnstaple (Allan 1994), while finer sandy variants could include examples of Exeter fabric 40, with a probable source in the Exe valley (Allan 1984; 1999). Diagnostic vessel forms include jars and one possible bowl. Also present are four finer sandy glazed wares, which include at least one Bristol product (Redcliffe ware), and a possible Poole Harbour whiteware. The assemblage was of relatively hard fabrics through being well-fired, which has meant that little abrasion was evident on the material (7.6g average sherd weight). Overall, the medieval pottery ranges from 11th to 13th century in date.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.4 Post-medieval wares consist entirely of coarse redwares, one with trailed slip decoration and one sgraffito ware. Again, all are likely to be of at least relatively local manufacture, with potential sources including Nether Stowey, about 10km west of the Site, and Donyatt, about 30km to the south.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 5.3.1 All of the CBM collected was of post-medieval/modern, comprising small fragments of roof tile, brick and drainpipe. These fragments have not been retained.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recorded from the evaluation trenches, the ploughsoil overlying natural alluvial silty clay and clay deposits.
- 6.1.2 The fieldwalking survey has recorded a small finds assemblage, of which only a small amount is of archaeological or historical interest, comprising prehistoric worked flint (2), Romano-British (3) and medieval (26) pottery, all recorded predominantly from three broad locations within the Site.
- 6.1.3 The undiagnostic prehistoric worked flint pieces and the Romano-British pottery recorded from the Site point to human activity of these dates on the Steart peninsula, in both cases the material being brought to the Site, though the nature and extent of the activities undertaken are hard to interpret at this stage, with such a small and dispersed assemblage.
- 6.1.4 Romano-British material and features have been recorded to the immediate west and south of the Site, though virtually nothing in the immediate vicinity of the pieces recovered here. To the west only a few Romano-British settlements have been recorded, with a settlement being recorded near Stolford. The town of Comwich to the south of the Site was a Roman settlement and port, provided with a natural harbour and a ferry which

crossed the River Parrett from Combwich to Pawlett from Roman times until the early 1800's.

- 6.1.5 Romano-British land reclamation for grazing probably began in the 1st century AD and involved flood protection and drainage (Leech and Leach 1982). The coastal and estuarine marsh areas were important for salt and pottery production in this period. It is possible that the Steart Peninsula remained as tidal marsh and was exploited for industrial purposes rather than settlement, though more archaeological information is required.
- 6.1.6 The small assemblage of 11th - 13th century pottery fits well with other evidence from the Site. This includes the number of recorded 'moated' sites in the area recorded from LiDAR plots and aerial photographs and also from an archaeological evaluation reflecting wider patterns of extensive medieval recolonisation recorded elsewhere on the Somerset Levels; the maximizing of areas of land for sheep and cattle grazing. The distribution of relatively unabraded medieval pottery from the east of the Site (Plot 3) could possibly be derived from sub-surface features, perhaps from medieval settlement or other activity closely situated to an infilled palaeochannel opening onto the River Parrett.

7 COPYRIGHT

- 7.1.1 Wessex Archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. Wessex Archaeology will provide an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project.

8 ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The project archive will be prepared to the standards set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006) and in accordance with procedures outlined in *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (MGC 1992) and the requirements of the recipient museum, who will be consulted by Wessex Archaeology prior to commencement of the investigation.
- 8.1.2 With the agreement of the landowner(s), the project archive, including written, drawn, photographic and material elements (together with a summary of the contents of the archive), including any objects declared Treasure under the *Treasure Act* (1996), will be deposited upon completion of the post-fieldwork programme.
- 8.1.3 The project archive will be prepared for curation in accordance with the recipient museum deposition requirements. Provided there is sufficient capacity, the designated recipient will be Taunton Museum. Otherwise, archive deposition arrangements will be resolved in discussion with the Client, English Heritage and Somerset County Council. All records will be copied to microfilm. This will comply with the requirements presented in the document *Microfilming for Archaeological Archives* (RCHM). Wessex Archaeology will contact the National Monuments Record to check their requirements. The microfilm and one diazo duplicate will be submitted to the recipient museums, and one diazo duplicate submitted to the National Monument Record, Swindon.
- 8.1.4 The complete site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records, drawings and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the recipient museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2007). All archive elements are marked with the Wessex Archaeology Site Code **77221** and a full index has been prepared and listed in **Appendix 2**.

9 REFERENCES

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10 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH SUMMARY TABLES

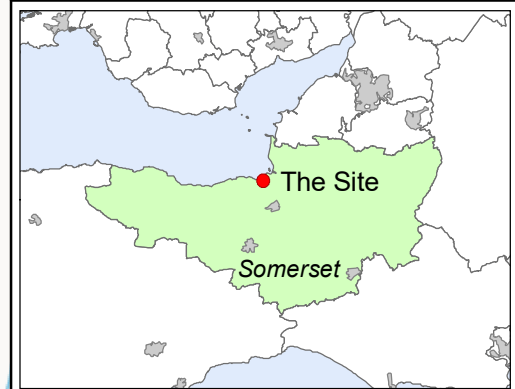
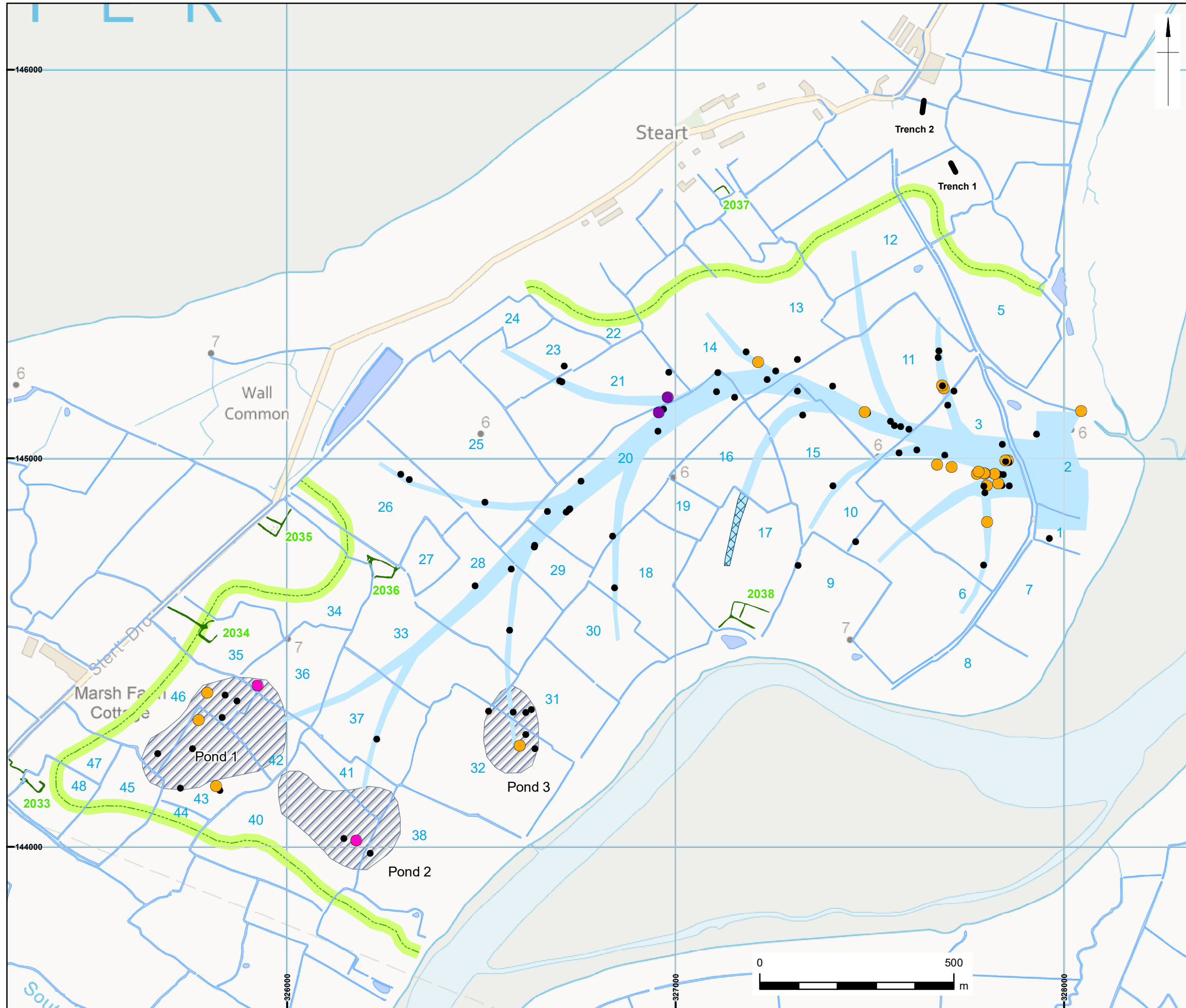
All archaeological deposits/features shown in **bold**.
All (+) indicate deposits/features not fully excavated.
'Depth' equals depth from present ground surface.

Trench 1	Co-ordinates: (N) 327709.51E, 145759.27N; (S) 327720.71E, 145736.31N	Dimensions:18.4 x 1.60m Max.depth: 1.03m
Ground Level (m AOD): 5.8 – 6m		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil – a mid greyish-brown silty clay with sparse, sub-rounded stones (<60mm).	0 – 0.27m
102	Natural alluvium (upper) – mid greyish-brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded stone (<20mm).	0.27 – 0.73
103	Natural alluvium (lower) – a light to mid bluish-grey, sterile clay with sparse manganasese flecks (<2mm) and good definition.	0.73 – 1.03(+)

Trench 2	Co-ordinates: (N) 327640.04E, 145920.05N; (S) 327635.66E, 145889.71N	Dimensions:19.95 x 1.60m Max.depth: 1.20m
Ground Level (m AOD): 5.8 – 6m		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil – a mid greyish-brown silty clay with sparse, sub-rounded stones (<5mm).	0 – 0.22
202	Natural alluvium (upper) – mid greyish-brown silty clay with very rare sub-rounded stone (<20mm).	0.22 – 0.51
203	Natural alluvium (lower) – a light to mid bluish-grey, sterile clay with sparse manganasese flecks (<2mm) and good definition.	0.51 – 1.20(+)

11 APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE INDEX

File No.	Details	Format	Number
1	Index to Archive	A4	1
1	Client Report	A4	20
1	Client Report	A3	1
1	Written Scheme of Investigation	A4	12
1	Day Book (photocopy)	A4	8
1	Plot Records	A4	36
1	Test Pit/Trial Trench Records	A4	2
1	Site Graphics	A4	1
1	Photographic Register	A4	2
2	Digital photographs	-	74



- Finds**
- Prehistoric flint
 - Roman pottery
 - Medieval pottery
 - Post-medieval/modern
- Other Symbols**
- Evaluation Trench
 - Not ploughed
 - Creek layout
 - 'Moated' sites
 - Flood defence
 - Pond
 - 00 WA Plot number

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Revision Number:	0
Illustrator:	LJC
Date:	15/12/11
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Site location and proposed creek layout

Figure 1



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